

**Task Force On Local and Regional Government Disaster Response
Minutes
Paris, December 5th
City Hall, room Commission 5**



List of participants

Josep Sagarra	Catalan Found of Cooperation	General Secretary
Silvia Ayala	Catalan Found of Cooperation	Project Officer
Harun Ercan	Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality	Adviser for Co-Mayors
Gultan Kisanak	Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality	Co-Mayor
Avi Rabinovitch	LACDE Local authorities confronting disaster and emergencies Israel	
Eli Levy	Mayor of Lehavim Israel	
salach Suliman	Mayor of Boena Nugidad Israel	
Hayrettin Gungor	Union of Municipalities of Turkey	Secretary General
Mehmet Duman	UCLG-MEWA	Secretary General
Adrien Licha	UCLG-MEWA	Project Coordinator
Gulfem Keles	UMT	Head of Foreign Relations D.
Fatimetou Abdel Malick	Municipality of Tervragh-Zeina	Mayor
		Councillor for Communication and Focal Point for Resilience
Yousra Cherif	Municipality of Tervragh-Zeina	Governance, Policy and Networks Officer
Elena Pierce	FCM International	Director
Sebastien Hamel	FCM International	Director
Peter Knip	VNG International	Director
Carlos Castro	Lisbon Municipality	Deputy Mayor
Bertrand Gallet	General Director	Cities Unies France
Nicolas Wit	Deputy Director	Cités Unies France
Simone Giovetti	Cities Unies France	Project Officer
Lucie Allex Billaud	Cities Unies France	Project Officer
Mohamed Boussraoui	UCLG	Director of Programme
Luca Nizzola	City of Geneva	Project Manager
Javier Pava	Bogota	Director

Round Table

Presenting running initiatives

- **FCM** presented a new long-term program (5 years) that will be launched in Jordan in order to support initiative to help “urban refugees” and support Jordanian local authorities in services delivery. Two main area of intervention: governance and waste management. The program will invest around 14.000.0000 euros. 12 municipalities will be concerned by the program and will be chosen within a few months. FCM is building a partnership around this initiative. VNG, ACTED and others will be key partners of this initiative. Other can join. A workshop will be entirely dedicated to the presentation of this program;
- **VNG** recalled its support initiative for refugees in Jordan and soon in Lebanon (Bekaa valley);
- **LACDE** offered to become partner of VNG and FCM initiatives to help refugees communities in Turkey and abroad;
- Concerning the situation of refugees many speakers took the floor:
 - **A representative of the Turkey municipalities association** recalled the extremely critical situation in Turkey where the state already spent more than 8 billions euros in supporting more than 2 millions refugees;

- **The mayor of Diyarbakır municipality remembered** the work that has been done in order to support refugees coming from Kobane area in Syria. More than 200.000 refugees were hosted by the municipality. After 3 years around 170.000 persons have managed to return to Kobane. The city of Kobane still needs a lot of support for reconstruction. The municipality also needs support to improve services delivery.
- The Task Force will be associated to the recent proposition coming from the city of Madrid to hold a conference on the situation of refugees and migrants;
- **The World Secretariat of UCLG** recalled the great amount of work made on “Disaster risk reduction“ and resilience particularly after the UN Sendai conference. In partnership with UNISDR a round table has been organized recently in Johannesburg. The UCLG task Force on local and regional governments disaster response attended the meeting. The main goal of this meeting was to follow-up the Sendai framework and to see which role local governments can play to find solutions and develop DRR programs. Many African cities expressed their will to join the Task Force.

Task force ground initiatives

Emergency in Nepal:

- The Task Force secretariat recently realized a mission to explore potential reconstruction projects in Nepal which could include a component of support to the Nepalese local authorities within the framework of a decentralization process. Nepalese local authorities and national associations of local authorities expressed the wish to be assisted during the very next local electoral process (march 2016). This is a very important decentralisation process for the country. The Task Force secretariat will share a full report of the mission.

Delegation to Kobané (Syria) area

- The Task Force validated in the previous meeting the principle of organizing a UCLG delegation in Kobane to express the support of the world organization and identify projects to be supported. This idea still stands. The security situation in the region is more complex today than it was four months ago. The feasibility of this initiative requires strong advices and cooperation with the parties on the region.
- VNG underlined the fact that financial resources are needed in order to launch projects. If a mission is organized it is important to be sure what we will be concretely able to offer its support.
- The Task Force can also consider organizing a regional meeting on the reconstruction of Kobané.

UN World Humanitarian Summit

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) (Istanbul, May 2016) is an initiative of the UN Secretary-General to set a vision, recommendations, and commitments on how to more effectively and inclusively, meet the humanitarian challenges of the future. Consultations so far have highlighted the urgent need for an 'urban track' towards the World Humanitarian Summit. Urbanization is perceived as a great

opportunity to drive development but also results, in particular when not planned, in fast rising urban risk. Cities need to be resilient to withstand shocks and protect development gains.

Key Factors to Consider

- Traditional humanitarian actors are still ill equipped to respond to urban humanitarian crisis, which requires skills and experience to deal with the complexity of cities.
- Humanitarian response needs to incorporate a clearer role for local authorities, and build on the coping and support mechanisms of communities, taking into account local economic mechanisms.
- We have to focus more on strengthening urban resilience, in particular for the most at risk cities, on ensuring that in the response, resilience gets fast tracked, by aligning more humanitarian and development approaches.
- By 2050, 70% of the world population will live in urban areas. Accelerating urbanization - together with climate change and in a context of increasing numbers of disasters - is defining our global reality and will shape our future. It is a critical framework by which to define, prevent, prepare for and respond to crises, conflict and disasters. Over 80% of the world's GDP is produced in cities. As cities also constitute a central part of the global risk landscape, their economic vulnerability presents significant risks to national and global economic output. The urban population in lower income and fragile countries has increased by 326 % in the last 40 years. Urban poverty is concentrated in fast-growing at-risk and mostly unplanned informal settlements. The displaced are increasingly seeking refuge in urban areas, with over half of the world's 38 million IDPs and approximately half of the 13 million refugees living in towns and cities. Displacement is also becoming increasingly protracted and is now averaging 17 years. Natural disasters and armed conflicts in urban areas require new strategic responses to address risk, prepare for unavoidable events and mitigate the impact of crises – responses that provide immediate humanitarian relief and simultaneously strengthen urban resilience. The scale and nature of escalating urban risk and the opportunities cities offer for a more effective response should drive further humanitarian reform. The urban crisis agenda should be a key focus of the World Humanitarian Summit, as it provides a link to an evolving broader agenda, as outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the upcoming Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III, October 2016).
- Presentation of a proposal for series of consultations with frontline municipal stakeholders in which the Task Force secretariat took part (Cologne, Berlin, Barcelona, Geneva). In preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), those global consultations have been organized by the purposely-appointed Urban Expert Group to propose a set of recommendations on how to strengthen humanitarian action in urban areas. In support of the Urban Expert Group, IMPACT and UCLG Task Force Secretariat On Local and Regional Government Disaster Response proposed to facilitate a series of additional consultations with key local stakeholders in five urban areas recently affected by crisis. The consultations would occur between January and March 2016 and their outcomes will be summarised in a *Brief on Urban Crisis*, which could be presented as part of the Urban Expert Group's advocacy at the WHS.
- The Task Force Secretariat succeeded in being recognized as a key actor on the new built "global alliance for urban crisis". Rapid and poorly planned urbanization is driving vulnerability in towns and cities around the world. These vulnerabilities, exacerbated by climate change, and combined with a rise in conflict and protracted displacement in urban areas, mean that humanitarian emergencies are increasingly occurring in towns and cities. Responding to this reality, its scale and complexity,

requires new ways of working. The Alliance is a platform that unites municipal authorities, urban professionals, the private sector, humanitarian and development actors, to prevent, prepare for and respond better to urban crises. The Alliance will set an agenda and channel strategic investments and resources to change the way we work in urban areas, and to deliver at scale.

- The Alliance will ensure that the right coordination, approaches, capacities and tools are in place to respond more effectively. The Alliance will also help scale up resilience and preparedness in the most at risk towns and cities. Most importantly it will consolidate efforts from humanitarian and development actors towards the sustainable development goal of 'Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.
- Meeting with Joan Clos. The Task Force secretariat organized a meeting with the general secretary of the UNHABITAT. A special session on the role of local governments will be organized during next HABITAT III conference. A clear link between WHS in Istanbul and HABITAT III exists. The Task Force proposed to work on a global "policy paper" lobbying for the role of local and regional governments on building more resilient territories in one side and be key actor to respond to a crisis when it occurs.
- The city of Bogota invites the task Force to work together on the preparation of a special session on this subject during the next UCLG world congress.

Task Force secretariat

- New UCLG members (from Africa and Asia sections) expressed the wish to join the task force working group;
- The secretariat recalled the need to reinforce its capacities with member's contribution in order to fulfil its tasks.
- The goal of the Task Force is to ensure a strong lobbying aiming at reinforcing the role of local authorities in crisis management and to develop operational and coordinated actions from the task force members when a crisis occurs. In order to strengthen the Task Force and be stronger when a crisis strikes, we need to find funding so that we can create pertinent tools such as an operational website, an alert centre, protocol documents, a local authorities experts database etc.

Task Force Agenda (see annexe 2016 Task Force secretariat working plan)

- Participation at the 2 days workshop organized by the global alliance of urban crisis, early 2016.
- Technical Seminar in Geneva (meeting the UN and European Union Agency involved on recovery during a crisis (natural disaster or conflict) in coordination with the Geneva city hall and in preparation of Istanbul humanitarian summit. During this seminar technicians from the task force will be decided how to create new tools to improve the visibility and the capacity of the task force secretariat (a rapid response system a web site...).
- Organizing a delegation to the WHS, Istanbul 2016;
- Preparing a workshop in Bogota during the UCLG world congress
- Preparing and participation at HABITAT III (October 2016, Quito) with a focus on urban resilience
- Drafting of a UCLG document "improving the UCLG network capacity to respond in urban crisis"



Simone Giovetti, Cités Unies France UCLG Task Force secretariat. s.giovetti@cites-unies-france.org / Tel: 0033153418187



ANNEXE I

Task Force On Local and Regional Government Disaster Response Working plan 2016

During the next months of 2015 and during next year, 2016, the UCLG Task Force on local and regional government disaster response will develop, through its secretariat, the following activities:

1. Specific activities:

1.1. Drafting of a UCLG document “improving humanitarian action in urban crisis” for the world humanitarian summit (WHS), Istanbul May 2016

Aim: Recommendations how to improve humanitarian response in urban crisis, based on analysis in a few cities recently affected by crisis.

In preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), a number of consultations have been organized by the purposely-appointed Urban Expert Group to propose a set of recommendations on how to strengthen humanitarian action in urban areas.

In view of contributing to the above priorities, UCLG’s Task Force secretariat On Local and Regional Government Disaster Response (UCLG) proposed to facilitate a series of workshops. Those recommendations will be compiled in a report, which will be broadly circulated and presented by key municipal stakeholders at an appropriate global venue; if relevant and possible the report could be presented at the WHS by mayors of cities participating in the study as well as mayors of influential global cities engaged in UCLG.

1.2. Organizing a UCLG workshop seminar in partnership with the Geneva municipality (march 2016).

In order to strengthen the role of UCLG local authorities in their role of key actors during crisis and for rehabilitation, the Task Force secretariat decided to organize a one day workshop with UN agencies, and other key actors, directly involved on the ground operations during and after a major crisis. This seminar will be open to key local authorities, and local authorities networks, involved in operational activities or directly affected by a crisis. This seminar will be organized in partnership with the *urban expert group* and the *global alliance of urban crisis*.

1.3. Preparing a workshop in Bogota during the UCLG world congress

During the World Congress a plenary session exploring the issue: “how to improve the world network capacities to better respond to a urban crisis”.

1.4. Drafting of a UCLG document “improving the UCLG network capacity to respond in urban crisis”

Specific activities will be elaborated to reach to reach-out to UCLG regional sections in order to improve the capacities of a response during a crisis. A survey, and eventually a regional workshop, will help to draft a document with key proposition to improve the network structure.

1.5 Communication tools

- Creation of a website. The web site will collect information about local authorities playing a role on reconstruction and will be used to share information during a crisis (collect data from local authorities, sharing contacts).
- Creation of a web-letter

2. Network development and coordination.

2.1 Participation the WHS forum, Istanbul, 23-24 of May 2016, in coordination with UCLG and support the coordination of local authorities involved in the process.

2.2 Participation at the 2 days workshop organized by the global alliance of urban crisis, early 2016.

2.3 Follow-up on WHS recommendations and implementations – prepare consolidation of results at Habitat III.

2.4 Preparing and participation at HABITAT III (October 2016, Quito) with a focus on urban resilience.

The UCLG Task Force secretariat will follow actively the discussion around the preparation of habitat III particularly concerning city resilience in partnership with UN-HABITAT and PFVT (for the French side, PFVT is a platform that brings together French know-how on urban matters). The Task Force secretariat will actively work on lobbying for more effective humanitarian-development planning and delivery based on verifiable assessments of resilience capacity and production of urban resilience action plans through addressing gaps/weaknesses in urban systems, and capacity constraints with partners and local authorities.

2.5 Increase the participation to the Task force activities with new members (network of local authorities and local authorities directly);

2.6 Participation to next session on Risk Reduction, during Africities in Johannesburg

Field operational Initiatives

Within the framework of its network activities, the Task Force will set up several field operation initiatives. The Task Force secretariat is actually proposing 3 “ground initiatives to act collectively supporting local authorities affected by a crisis:

2.7. Field operation initiative 1) Support to the election / decentralization process In Nepal.

After the earthquake that affected the country, Cités Unies France launched a call for solidarity and proposed to the Task Force group to set up a delegation in order to identify programs. The mission took place end of September. In 2016 two main activities will be activated (under UCLG flag): 1) program of reconstruction; 2) supporting activities to accompany Nepalese local authorities on their process of decentralisation and democratisation (elections are scheduled for march 2016). Organizing a workshop after election in partnership with Asian-Pacific regional section and Nepalese national networks of local authorities

2.8. Field operation initiative 2) Support local authorities in the Middle-East to deal with Syrian refugees

On the Middle-east neighbours countries. Continuing lobbying and looking for resources in order to help Middle-east local authorities to deal with Syrian refugees tragedy.

2.9. Field operation initiative 3) Support Mission of a local elected delegation in Kobané (Syria)

After a call we received from Turkish local authorities close to Syria borders we decided to set up a delegation in Kobané, Syria and propose a common project to help this very symbolic local authority to rebuild it-self.