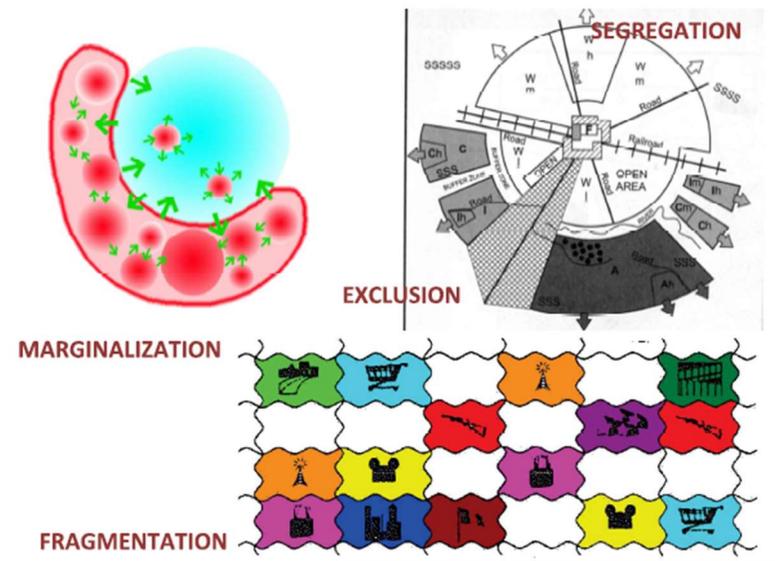




Urban Collaboration Platform Workshop Report

11-13 July 2019, Beirut, Lebanon



CERDA, Analysis of urban space

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Abbreviations

ACTED	Agence d'Aide a la Coopération Technique et au Développement
ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CC	Climate Centre
CEDRA	Centre d'étude et de Recherche en Développement et Aménagement
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EWEA	Early Warning Early Action
FbA	Forecast based Action
GDPC	Global Disaster Preparedness Center
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent
MSME	Micro, Small and Middle scale Enterprises
NSs	National Societies
RCRC	Red Cross Red Crescent
UCP	Urban Collaboration Platform
UNHabitat	United Nations Human Settlement Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Urban Collaboration Platform Workshop 2019

Executive summary

Rapid and unplanned urbanization compounded with existing systemic challenges and changing climate is one of the most important drivers shaping how the societies function and organize themselves in developing countries. World's urban population grows by roughly 1.4 million people every week and will constitute two thirds of world's population by 2050. This rapid urban growth forces the most vulnerable communities settle in the most hazardous areas, face multiple risks stemming from lack of access to basic services, being excluded from urban governance a system, and insecurities around land and property rights and sustainable income.

The workshop demonstrated the growing interest and curiosity of Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) National Societies in finding their niche to add value to the resilience of vulnerable urban communities and assist them in tackling with these risks. Many national societies have been exploring and piloting new areas and ways of working in urban areas. The workshop provided a platform for sharing experiences and learning from and inspiring each other. It also provided a chance for all participants discuss a wide range of topics such as how to engage with private sector in a sustainable way? What is RCRC role in improving infrastructure and basic services? How to manage expectations and dynamics between host and refugee communities?

The variety of solutions as presented by National Societies and the external partners showed that the key factor in finding answers is being relevant to concerns of urban communities and creating a sense of shared vision among all stakeholders. That requires investing time in building relations and trust, understanding the context and being flexible and agile to adapt changing dynamics.

The collective thinking towards the future of urban for RCRC indicates a stronger role for RCRC branches working together with their local governments and other stakeholders; acting as convener and being the voice of the most vulnerable. In this evolving role, NSs will be instrumental in assisting communities self-organize to find viable and scalable solutions to reduce their risks and improve their well-being and safety.



Workshop participants at the Saida local government office

Background

Since 2015, the Federation Secretariat and American Red Cross (ARC) have been co-leading the Urban Collaboration Platform (UCP), with strong support from several National Societies (NSs), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) and the RCRC Climate Center. UCP aims to help the RCRC National Societies be better informed, better connected and better engaged in understanding and working in urban context.

The first output of this process was the Urban Assessment [Workshop](#) hosted by the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen on 20-21 June 2016. The participants of the workshop expressed a strong interest in expanding this kind of collaboration to other topics related to urban resilience and disaster risk reduction. The [Second workshop](#) was hosted by the Norwegian Red Cross in Oslo on 18-20 May 2017 that sought to strengthen the collaboration process and advance the RCRC knowledge and practical skills in urban disasters and crisis. The [Third workshop](#) was held on 4-6 June 2018 in Nairobi, hosted by the Kenya Red Cross and focused on RCRC work in informal settlement areas. Building on this momentum, Lebanon Red Cross hosted the fourth workshop with a focused theme of “Inclusive Cities” from 11th- 13th of June 2019 in Beirut, Lebanon.

Workshop Design and Participation

The overall purpose of the workshop was **to showcase existing practices and explore new ways to strengthen role and influence of National Societies in creating inclusive cities all around the world.** The agenda of the workshop was designed to be interactive and participatory creating an open platform to share, discuss and explore ideas on a wide range of topics such as inclusive community resilience and disaster management

practices; the role of RCRC National Societies in displacement and refugees in cities and expanding partnerships and coalition building in city resilience building. The participatory urban planning session familiarized the national societies with the city planning processes and the importance of allowing most vulnerable groups participate in decision making and spatial design processes.

Over 60 people attended the workshop (Appendix 1). The representatives from Red Cross and Red Crescent included 22 National Societies from different regions, ICRC, IFRC Geneva and Africa region, Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) and RCRC Climate Center. The workshop also welcomed speakers and presenters from CERDA-Lebanese University, Municipality of Saida, UNHCR, UNHABITAT, ACTED, ALNAP, Care Lebanon, Mercy Corps and Public Works. Participants also visited the Saida City, where the Lebanese Red Cross currently implementing projects targeting both the Lebanese community residing in Old Saida City and the Syrian refugees residing in informal settlement areas.

Highlights from the Workshop Sessions

Opening remarks

In his opening remarks, Mr. George Kettaneh, LRC Secretary General, highlighted increasing vulnerabilities in urban areas due to exposure to impacts of disasters, climate change and growing number of people moving into cities because of conflicts. The threats faced today by fragile communities have drawn the attention of RCRC internationally which has already started to tackle these issues. He mentioned that the

Lebanese Red Cross today implements several programs to prepare and/or help rehabilitate communities affected and/or prone to risks in a flexible, inclusive, comprehensive and sustainable way. Mr. Kettaneh also mentioned that in order to build urban resilience, organizations should focus on cooperation between stakeholders and collaboratively address challenges in a flexible and sustainable manner.

Mr. Cristhian Cortez, IFRC Head of Country Office Lebanon emphasized that the adverse impacts of disasters, climate change and growing conflicts are felt most acutely in cities, putting greater number of people at risk, reversing hard-won development and recovery gains and forcing tens of millions of urban residents face increased vulnerabilities. He also acknowledged that there are tremendous opportunities for RCRC National Societies to enhance their auxiliary role to local governments to improve city level disaster management mechanisms and reduce the risks and vulnerabilities. NSs can play a critical role in promoting social inclusiveness and representation of diverse communities in the decision-making and contingency planning processes, particularly for people living in slums and informal settlements.

Panel discussion

The topic of the panel discussion was “**How recent refugee influx affected policies and practices of local authorities, humanitarian and development actors**” and what the results, challenges and gaps in this regard are.

Speakers: Dr. Jihad Farah (CERDA, Lebanese University), Emmanuel Gignac (UNHCR), Mostafa Hijazi (Municipality of Saida), Hossam Faysal (IFRC) and Tarek Osseiran (UN-Habitat) chaired by Aynur Kadihasanoglu (IFRC).

Dr. Farah from CERDA at the Lebanese University commenced by reflecting on the concept of inclusiveness in cities from the angle of social innovation and participatory city planning. He highlighted the challenges as the recent massive refugee influx causing slum areas grow faster than cities; countries not being able to develop urban inclusion policies, lacking appropriation of spatial capital of urban spaces, thus causing segregation, marginalization, fragmentation and ultimately exclusion in urban areas. Lack of focus on such policies and planning, tensions have been felt in different cities around the world between the host and migrant communities. Today, more cities face challenges as exposed by Dr. Farah, especially states with weak physical and institutional infrastructures, thus, it is important to adopt such practices that would ultimately provide cohesion and development in communities. He concludes by stating that when cities are able to achieve such goals, they would be able to achieve development and stability through examples displayed on the cities of St Leonard and Hodimont: two cities that have been welcoming migrants in Lebanon.

Mr. Gignac from UNHCR mentioned that Lebanon hosts close to one million registered Syrian refugees with the highest ratio of refugee per/capita in the world. An increasing number of those refugees reside in urban settings which makes it a challenging situation to respond to their needs. In 2018, 69% of refugees in Lebanon were reported to be living under the poverty line. 73% of refugees lack legal residency status above the age of 15, which has led to restrictions on freedom of movement, an increased real/perceived risk of arrest and detention, an increase in child labor, and inhibited access to services (e.g. birth registration), as well as inhibited access to livelihood opportunities and increased exploitation. The UNHCR estimates that over 145,000 children are born to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Approximately 70% lack a birth certificate registered with the Lebanese authorities due to multiple

reasons such as the complexity and cost of the procedure, heavy documentary requirements, and lack of ID documents, high transportation costs, time consuming, inconsistent practices and fees as well as limitations in the freedom of movement. Moreover, due to the non-camp policy in Lebanon, refugees had to seek different types of shelter. The UNHCR reports that 66% live in residential settlements, 15% in non-residential settlements and 19% in non-permanent type (e.g. plastic sheeting). UNHCR set in place the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in order to mitigate the impacts of refugee influx in the region and in Lebanon specifically in cooperation with other actors.

Mr. Hijazi representing the municipality of Saida, Lebanon discussed the complex demographics of the city, as well as the challenges faced in relation to building resilience within its current refugee context especially that it hosts the “Ein el Helwi” camp, the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon, in addition to Syrian refugees dispersed in the community. He presented the city resilience plan developed by the municipality in collaboration with different actors including UN agencies and Lebanese Red Cross. The resilience plan which focuses on disaster risk awareness and capacity building aims to mitigate the impacts of lack of city regulations, unmonitored waste landfills, conflict, slums, etc. Following extensive and participatory vulnerability and resilience assessments in the area, different projects were proposed including: re-zoning and parcellation of the area, transforming landfill area into garden, protecting the old city and the commercial port of Saida, creating a sewage plant, developing a sea-waterfront project and upgrading market infrastructure.

Mr. Tarek Osseiran summarized different interventions that UN-Habitat put in place to respond to this unprecedented and sudden increase in population in Lebanon. The influx of over one million Syrian refugees to

Lebanon impacted on the country’s overall urban setting, placing an additional layer of deprivation on the poor urban neighborhoods. In the absence of data especially for residents of urban areas, UN-Habitat uses the city and neighbourhood profiles tool to analyze impacts of crisis on urban settings. They take into consideration the interrelatedness of urban sectors and maps and analyze population movements, functionality and strains on social and physical infrastructure as well as damage on the economy and markets, including the shelter, housing and rental market.

The panel then concluded with Dr. Hosam Faysal, the Head of Disaster and Crises Preparedness, Response and Recovery unit at the IFRC MENA Regional office. Dr. Faysal discussed IFRCs approach to urban resilience focusing on the fact that one size does not fit all and that there are different dynamics to be taken into consideration in planning and those include (1) supporting local Agenda (2) sharing knowledge and information (3) Empowering local government and (4) adopting a long-term approach. He then reflected on RCRC movement role implementing programs that move away from humanitarian response to development ones.

Presentations by External Partners

City and Neighborhood Profiling– UN-Habitat

UN-HABITAT and UNICEF launch the [neighborhood profiling](#) project to offer mapped and statistical data on the living conditions of more than 30 disadvantaged areas in Lebanon. The neighborhood profiles serve as a framework for area-based, coordinated actions between partners to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan. The neighborhood profiles offer mapped and statistical data on the living conditions of more than 30

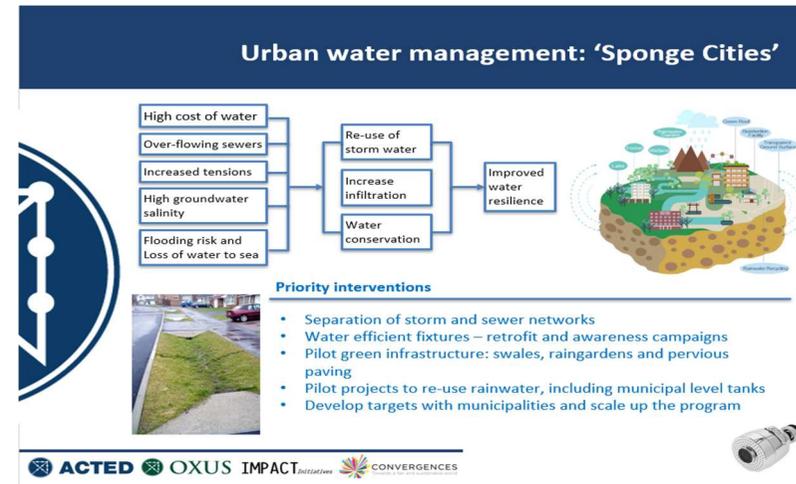
disadvantaged areas in Lebanon covering multiple sectors and issues, including governance; population; safety and security; health; education; child protection; youth; local economy and livelihoods; buildings and housing; basic urban services; and access and open spaces. The data was gathered participatively through field and household surveys, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

Water Resilience in Urban Settings and Age Friendly Cities – ACTED

ACTED’s Water resilience in urban settings program focus on emergency response, infrastructure, capacity building of local authorities and improved resources management. Priority activities included: Improving service delivery in informal residential areas through local committees; Rainwater harvesting: re-investing in simple solutions for residents, institutions and businesses and piloting the Sponge Cities: for improved urban water management in the Union of Municipalities of the Southern Suburbs. The purpose of this project is not only providing water but also to put these resources at use for fire safety and irrigation. The Age friendly cities project targets elderly who are often neglected in protection programming. ACTED is advocating a shift towards age-friendly cities through increasing the mobility and participation, better governance and institutional strengthening.

Building Resilience in Urban Settings - Livelihoods – Mercy Corps

The program aims at improving the employability and access to income-generating opportunities through skills and vocational trainings; strengthening and supporting the creation of 80 micro, small and middle scale enterprises (MSME) through provision of technical assistance in marketing and distribution and provision of equipment for new products. The Youth for Tomorrow program aims to provide 10,000



ACTED presentation

youth between the ages of 12 - 19 with safe spaces that support and help them improve their psychosocial and emotional wellbeing as well as providing 5,000 youth with life and market- oriented skills to develop their employability skills.

Case Study from Tripoli, Lebanon – CARE International Lebanon

The presentation showed the core elements of CARE programing approach as human conditions, sound enabling environment and social equity and governance. CARE programs target neighborhood level community led projects including improving communal infrastructure and building the capacity of local authorities; solid waste management; access to protection services and awareness raising; and economic empowerment of women and market based vocational training. The presenter highlighted some of the lessons learned as “always think of projects on the long term in case the funding dries out and always consider the sustainability in programming, as well as community outreach in the planning processes”.

Understanding City Context and Systems” – ALNAP

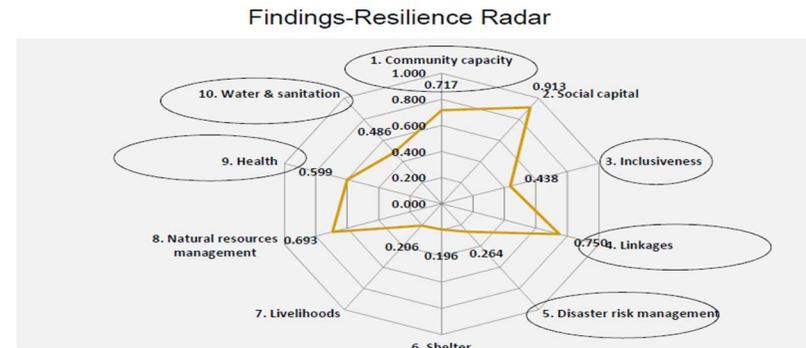
The presentation offered a critical view on context, needs and the complexity of the different interventions that we participate in. Context is understood as the environment and circumstances within which something happens, and which can help to explain it. It is important to understand that it does not change on the short-term, it exists beyond any situation which may have happened, and it is broader than the experience of any individual or group. The recommendations included: consider the long-term vision of the humanitarian response; consider the interconnectedness of different sectors as well as areas of intervention; and build on what already exists in an urban context, and the flexibility and adaptiveness of programs – especially in the dynamics of urban settings.

Presentations by RCRC National Societies and movement partners

Urban Empowerment and Resilience Project– Bangladesh RC

The Urban Resilience and Empowerment project aims to build Community and Stakeholders ownership for creating a sustainable governance structure in urban slums in Gazipura in Bangladesh. The main threats faced in the area are identified by the community as lack of drainage, waste management and safe water, high drug usage, poverty and unemployment. The application of resilience radar methodology led the Bangladesh RC to focus on development of a city governance system consisting of cluster committees at the community level up to city corporation at the city level and a cost-sharing mechanism in their interventions. The achievements include improved waste management

and sanitation awareness; improved knowledge about rights and entitlements and higher school attendance.



Bangladesh RC presentation

Humanitarian Action in Urban Context – German RC

German RC will be implementing a global program to strengthen strategic topics and innovative approaches in urban context over the next three years. The program will include several thematic areas of focus including strengthening humanitarian action in urban areas as well as strengthening anticipation within the humanitarian response including FbA and humanitarian DRR. The program will aim to influence our working modalities particularly in urban areas.

Urban Disaster Risk Reduction Project in China – Hong Kong RC

Due to the rapid urbanization, different types of settlements such as urban villages, old towns, shantytowns, village turned communities and rural-urban fringes has emerged in China. These towns shared common challenges such as low potential to mitigate disasters, low self-help capacity, highly dense living environment prone to security risks, inadequate infrastructure, ineffective urban governance systems. The project activities included building community clinics, warehouses and

provision of equipment, as well as trainings and community awareness activities. As a result, communities were able to manage the clinics and warehouses, felt stronger feelings of cohesiveness and connection. The challenges encountered during the project implementation are summarized as difficulties in mobilizing the community, building trust and coordination between different stakeholders.

Community Mobilization in Urban Areas – Ivory Coast RC

The emerging settlements around the capital city Abidjan have common characteristics, such as lack of proper electricity, water, sanitation and waste management, non-existent or adapted urban development plans. The project aimed at addressing the sanitation and flooding risks by contributing to the resilience of communities against the challenges identified. Activities focused on trainings, awareness campaigns, which allowed the formation of community volunteers as well as clubs in schools and simulation drills. The biggest challenges were demotivated volunteers and weak community participation and cohesion. Activities to overcome these included organization of football games, cooking, dancing, sketching and hygiene competitions in which different age/gender groups participated.

Urban Resilience Project and Youth Innovation– Kenya RC

KRCS has been operating informal settlement in Nairobi since 2008 with the support of the Danish Red Cross. These settlements face multiple challenges such as congestion, illegal and undesignated dumping sites, water contamination and drainage blockages as well as the disposal of non-biodegradable debris. The project aims to make urban communities in 7 informal settlements in Nairobi more resilient through community level activities including disaster risk reduction (DRR) and improving livelihoods.



Organo Briquettes

The national society was able to

engage the youth through hackathons, a form of innovation competition around three thematic areas: Environmental conservation and water use; Open and public space innovation; and Livelihood/business solutions for youth unemployment. The winning ideas include organo-briquette, a compressed block of combustible biomass material; creating safe, affordable, healthy and child-friendly play spaces for children and lactating mothers in market-place contexts.

Urban Resilience in Saida, Lebanon – Lebanese RC

The Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) project aimed to build resilience of vulnerable people and communities through collaboration in the city of Saida. The project activities include the creation of safe spaces for children, improving the infrastructure of schools, fire-fighting and disaster awareness trainings and conducting school evacuation drills. It was highlighted that when communities are

engaged early on, they are aware of their ability to achieve change which creates a sense of ownership of the program implemented. LRC is also implementing projects in the old city of Saida targeting the refugees in collaboration with Saida governmental authorities.

The activities include creating Community Emergency Response Teams, renovation of water supply points. One of the lessons learned is the importance of working with existing structures and creating space for communities to manage their internal challenges. It is also important to provide services in an integrated manner bringing together host and refugee communities to build social cohesion.



Lebanon RC presentation

Challenges of Data Collection in the Urban Context – Mexican RC

The Flood Resilience Program consisted of two phases from 2013-2018 and from 2018-2023 focusing on community flood resilience enhancement and improvement of resilience measurement in semi-urban communities. Currently there is no empirically verified measurement tool for disaster resilience and the Flood Resilience

Measurement framework developed under the project aimed to enable assessing and demonstrating the impact of our interventions leading to increased social, political and financial investment in building flood resilience. The lessons learned include the importance of including decision-makers, local authorities and key stakeholders in the design phase, complementing the data collection process with VCA and repeatedly socializing the program to increase ownership of the community.

Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience – Myanmar RC

The project aimed to strengthen resilience and reduce the vulnerability in targeted communities in the cities of Yangon and Mandalay. The project activities included small-scale mitigation activities approved and included in the community plan of actions developed; conducting risk reduction awareness sessions and activities at community and school level; and continuing to develop the competency and capacities of the Red Cross township branches and its volunteers to manage DRR activities at the community level. The DRR activities/action plans developed by the community members based on multi-sectorial risk and needs assessment targeting the most vulnerable people in selected Wards. The city-wide risk assessment conducted by RC branch and other stakeholders completed under the Coastal Cities resilience project implemented in the city of Mawlamyine.

Humanitarian Diplomacy at the city level – Netherlands RC

The discussions focused on the need for local urban branches to increase their understanding of how and to what extent Humanitarian Diplomacy can be applied in their efforts to address shocks and stresses that vulnerable and poor communities face. There was consensus that, rather than a strategy or a step-by-step guide, a product might need to be developed that explains what Humanitarian Diplomacy entails in

relation to RCRC work to stimulate the pursue of Humanitarian Diplomacy, and even helping overcome reluctance that may exist. Netherlands Red Cross will reach out to interested National Societies to take this forward.

Damascus Water Emergency Response Project – Syrian Arab RC

Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) has developed the Damascus Water Cut and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) in response to the dire water situation in Damascus in December 2016 when 4.5 to 5 million people in Damascus and its surroundings lost their water sources for 40 days. The SARC working closely with the city authorities and the affected communities developed a contingency plan and started immediate rehabilitation of main water sources and main tunnels and pipelines once the area is safely accessible. The experience demonstrated the importance of having a contingency plan, skills and availability of community members and the communication of all steps of the plan with relevant stakeholders including community members and authorities in order to ensure funding, technical support and proper implementation.

Small Business Preparedness Initiative– Uganda RC

Business Preparedness initiative (BPI) in Kampala supported small to medium enterprises in developing their business continuity plan through conducting business workshops, radio and door to door campaign, making available Atlas business app and ensuring volunteer visits to share key messages on business continuity and resilience. The recommendations taken from their experience include investing time to socialize the idea, modifying material for disaster preparedness to make businesses stronger and looking at broad disasters like fire, floods and riots, which are more common. The use of the door-to-door campaign



Syrian Arab RC presentation

had a great impact of message absorption and it reached many businesses in a short period of time and should be replicated. When working with businesses, engaging with professional associations rather than individuals is more effective.

Heatwaves – RCRC Climate Center

Increasing deadly heatwaves across the globe is one of the most clear and confident projections we have of the future. Because of the heat island effect, the impacts of heatwaves are felt in cities more, particularly in informal settlements which have dense, housing challenges, little vegetation, limited public utilities and services. The RCRC Climate Center has developed a Heatwave Guide for Cities and will launch a Coalition for Heat at Global Climate Summit in September 2019. The guide provides practical examples of actions cities and disaster managers can take to reduce the impact of heatwaves.

Climate information for SMEs – RCRC Climate Center

Africa SMEs are the main drivers of job creation, supply chains, innovation, diversity, and economic growth contributing more than 50% of the gross domestic product. CC together with the Kenya RC and Uganda RC investigated the potential of integrating an anticipatory action planning section into the [Atlas: Ready for Business](#) app¹ and issuing anticipatory cash grants to SMEs that have completed the app when a forecast of heightened risk is issued. The results showed that Majority of SMEs in Uganda and Kenya are aware of climate change, 65% have access to climate information they trust it. However, very few take preparedness action.

IFRC's Approach to Migration and Displacement – IFRC

The presentation summarized the RCRC approach to displacement and migration, the resolutions, policy and strategy, operational responses and touched upon on the challenges faced in urban environments. Out of the total 258 million migrants worldwide, over 65 million are forcible displaced. In 2018 alone, 17.2 million people were displaced due to disasters. IFRC Migration Policy is based on needs and vulnerabilities, informed by rights and support provision of assistance and protection to all in need, regardless of status. While there are significant challenges for meeting the needs of migrants due to invisibility, bureaucracy and administrative obstacles there are also opportunities for IFRC to improve the lives of both migrants and host communities.

Urban Services in Protracted Crises – ICRC

The presentation showed the ICRC approach towards Urban Services during Protracted Armed Conflicts, touching upon the complexity, the

components and the interdependencies of urban services. The impacts on urban services can be direct or indirect and overtime lead to cumulative effect: the humanitarian consequences span from public health hazard to displacement. ICRC urban programming approach rely on three pillars: emergency response (reactive), support to urban service providers (reactive and proactive) and protection/prevention of civilian objects. A deeper understanding of services in urban context is needed. Protection for civilian objects (as per International Humanitarian Law) and access issues shall always be considered. This way will lead to a better approach which shall entail, among other things, more prevention (addressing the root causes), more operational depth, more collaboration and cooperation between development and humanitarian actors and more flexible and longer funding schemes and structures based on multi-year programming.

Participatory urban planning session

This session facilitated by [Public Works](#), a multidisciplinary research and urban planning outfit in Lebanon and aimed at introducing the concept and methodology of participatory city planning to the participants. The example presented showed the importance of allowing most vulnerable groups participate in decision making and spatial design processes, particularly in relation to equitable access to housing rights and basic services. The participants also had the chance to work on how NSs can contribute to these processes, resulting in suggestions for taking a convener role to bring together stakeholders to find common grounds and mobilizing the community to influence policies of local and national governments.

¹ **Atlas: Ready for Business**, a mobile application developed by the GDPC for the SMEs to guide them assessing their disaster risks and plan for reducing potential disaster impacts

Saida Field Visit

The field visit in Saida was initiated with a meeting with the Governorate of South Lebanon, with a presentation of the city level resilience and disaster risk reduction activities and engagement with the different stakeholders and actors including the LRC towards building resilience. The participants visited Saida Old City, where the LRC DRR Unit, has been operating and presented. They saw the water point micro projects as part of the community-based firefighting initiative.

The participants then proceeded to a tour inside Saida Fire Brigade station, where the firefighters shared their experience on how the work of LRC facilitated their mission and decreased number of fire related injuries and fatalities. The visit was concluded in the Ouzaii area where some of the Syrian refugees are located and the LRC implements different projects that aims at building the refugees resilience in collaboration with the governmental authorities and the different departments within LRC.



Participants getting briefed on fire-fighting initiative in the Saida Old City

Group work on Urban in RCRC Strategy 2030

The participants were asked to form groups to discuss the activities that the National societies can undertake in addressing the challenges linked with the preselected transformations as described by Strategy 2030 .The challenge of inclusive and fair humanitarian values that encourage a positive, hopeful change for humanity was integrated into all of the groups. In the following session, the participants were asked to prioritize top 3 of the proposed actions and then change them into position statement. The results are given in Table 1.

Group work on 33rd RCRC International Conference, “Act Today, Shape Tomorrow”

The RCRC International Conference is a unique forum bringing together the world's largest humanitarian network and nearly every government to enhance and inspire humanitarian debates. For the first time urbanization will be among the debate topics during the [33rd International conference](#). As part of the preparation process, the national societies and their governments make pledges committing to tackling with a certain topic or issue. Table 2 provides a list of potential pledges to address urban risks as suggested by the participants.

Table 1: Priority Actions for urban resilience

Strategy 2030 Challenge and transformations	Proposed position statements
<p>How can we ensure that all urban communities have safe, and equitable access to health, water, sanitation, and care services, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting and developing National Societies as strong and effective local actors - Ensuring trust and accountability - Inspiring and mobilizing a global movement for good, with volunteers and young people at the center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every citizen should have health coverage independent of his/her legal status. In order to build the comprehensive health system RCRC need to negotiate with health authorities. - Every NS should be a member of national health platforms. - Advocacy with government/local government authorities to improve health facilities and services and for safe water and sanitation. - Leveraging humanitarian diplomacy for promoting universal health care - Create a joint monitoring team to follow up provision of services - Health assessment/gap analysis in vulnerable areas about the existing facilities and demand of the people. - Access to meteorological information should be part of health interventions (not just DRR). - Knowledge and data sharing with key actors. - Influencing the SDG monitoring team to be more active for ensuring tracking of health programs. - Health surveillance at community level (linked with waste management, water provision etc. - Provide EMS services temporary supplementing government structures - Advocate for First aid training to be obligatory in all schools. - Health awareness campaigns and education (especially with youth) using social media promoting healthy lifestyle - Peer to peer education - Pandemic preparedness - Technical support to Wat-San

How can we reduce the impact of urban disasters and crisis (earthquakes, conflict and other non-climate shocks) for all people, especially the most vulnerable, so that all are able to thrive, through:

- Inspiring and mobilizing a global movement for good, with volunteers and young people at the center
- Influencing humanitarian action
- Financing the future

- The movement will continue to be relevant responding to evolving urban crises and disasters through:
 - Recognizing cities innate resilience.
 - Building partnerships within the city with local authorities, private sector, community organizations.
 - Brokering linkages between actors.
 - Developing shared plan in which the RCRC finds its role filling gaps.
- Providing branches with urban DRM guidance, humanitarian diplomacy training, and private sector engagement training (to be funded by the partnership with local governments and private sector)

How can we reduce the impact of urban disasters and crisis (hydro-meteorological hazards) for all people, especially the most vulnerable, so that all are able to thrive, through:

- Supporting and developing National Societies as strong and effective local actors
- Working effectively as a distributed network
- Financing the future

- RCRC will be leader in PAPE in risk reduction and climate action through adapted tools for urban context and urban volunteers.
- We will ensure risk mapping; risk information and risk monitoring is integrated across national societies' levels and across phases e.g. IRI-IFRC map room is being used by NSs.
- We will be a partner of choice in climate action and commit to organizational development to enable this (have required policies etc.)
- We will focus on and profile our work on climate to appeal to the youth (loyalty to a cause).
- All/min 80% of RCRC branches will have minimum skill set and knowledge in climate action.

How can we ensure those who migrate are safe, treated humanely and with dignity and that they have the support to thrive in inclusive societies through:

- Ensuring trust and accountability
- Influencing humanitarian action
- Undergoing a digital transformation

- Create awareness for humanitarian principles among the host communities.
- Create integration spaces in urban communities.
- Ensure safe spaces/lifesaving services to vulnerable migrants/refugees/ IDPs irrespective of legal status.
- Ensure access to essential services while considering the needs of vulnerable host communities.

Table 2: Potential pledges to address urban risks

- Upgrade urban neighborhood and core services for vulnerable urban populations
- Increase of Urban disaster risk reduction and climate action at scale
- Improve data collection and analysis for urban programming
- Include urban issues and targets in national societies' strategic planning
- Improve our own understanding and competencies on urban issues and complexities
- Work on urban coalition building in urban areas
- Set up urban emergency response fund
- Develop urban resilience strategy and policy
- Advocate with government to finalize and approve the urban development policy
- Update urban information and validation
- Adopt an inclusive urban planning approach, and represent all voices in urban planning processes
- Exchange experiences between different humanitarian actors and national societies
- Develop strategies and concepts on urban services for the national societies based on national strategies and needs analysis
- In cooperation with the government, make/prepare a local response to the Sendai framework
- Create urban community response teams
- Provide access to information aiming at EWEA
- Create safe schools
- Create platforms to discuss migrants and human rights
- Influence the private sector to allocate low-cost accommodation
- Develop programming tools in urban contexts
- Make partnerships to enable access to essential services to the most vulnerable
- Support livelihood initiatives for neglected communities
- Develop a multi-sectoral contingency plan for urban disaster response
- Guarantee safety for RCRC volunteers and staff to work in urban areas
- Refocus our community presence in urban contexts
- "A Group of National Societies" pledge to include urban consideration within their plans and policies and support each other.

Annex 1: Participant List

Institution	Name	Title	Institution	Name	Title
ACTED, Lebanon	Ciara Naome	WASH Technical Coordinator	Ivory Coast RC	Dr. Didier Bella	Community Health Coordinator
ACTED, Lebanon	Hajar Chamoun	Protection Officer	Kenya RC	Suada Ibrahim	Disaster Risk Reduction Manager
Afghan RC	Nowroz Alizada	Under Secretary General	Lebanese University	Reda Shmait	Consultant – Urban Planner
ALNAP	Leah Campbell	Senior Research Officer	Lebanon RC	Marwan Al Awar	DMS Director
American RC	Manish Tewani	Country Representative, Myanmar	Lebanon RC	Kassem Chaalan	Disaster Risk Reduction Program Manager
Bangladesh RC	Dr. Jahangir Alam	Asst. Director DRM	Lebanon RC	Noor Jaber	DMAG Coordinator
Bangladesh RC	M.Jasim U.Kabir	Senior Resilience Manager	Mercy Corps	Abdallah Souhani	Livelihood Component Lead
CARE Int. Lebanon	Daniel Delati	Deputy Country Director – Program	Mexico RC	Brenda Avila Flores	Flood Resilience Coordinator
CERDA	Dr. Jihad Farah	Professor of Urban Development	City of Saida	Mostafa Hijazi	Mayor
Danish RC	Michael Bates	Country Coordinator Lebanon	Myanmar RC	Dr. Tin Tun Aung	Deputy Secretary General
DR of Congo RC	Remy Ndubukulu	Disaster Risk Reduction Director	Myanmar RC	Tint Zaw	Assist. Program Manager, DM
Egypt RC	Dr. Ramy Nazer	Secretary General	Netherland RC	Joost Moehlmann	Business Dev. & Advisory Lead
German RC	Wolfgang Friedrich	Advisor Shelter/WASH/Urban	Netherlands RC	Raimond Duijsens	Community Resilience Advisor
German RC	Alan Beuret	Program Director, Lebanon	Palestine RC	Dr. Adel Al - Ahmad	Director of Palestine RC Project Unit – Lebanon
Hong Kong RC	Ken Kam Hung LEE	Senior Program Coordinator	Public Works	Tala Alaeddine	Urban Researcher
ICRC	Andrew Gardiner	Urban Livelihoods Advisor	Public Works	Monica Basbous	Research and Project Manager
ICRC	Ziad Zoubian	Project Manager	Climate Centre	Julie Arrighi	Urban Manager
ICRC	Andres Casal	Water & Habitat Coordinator	Climate Centre	Eddie Jjemba	Urban Resilience Advisor
ICRC	Igor Malgrati	Water and Habitat Regional Advisor	Qatar RC	Dr. Nehal Hefny	Head of Delegation - Lebanon
IFRC/AP	Federica Lisa	Shelter & Settlements Coordinator	Qatar RC	Mr. Mohammad Islam	Head of Programs in Lebanon
IFRC/ MENA	Cristhian Cortez	Head of Country Office, Lebanon	Swedish RC	Christelle Marguerite	Country Director DRC
IFRC / MENA	Susil Perara	Risk & Resilience Coordinator	Swiss RC	Jyri Rantanen	Country Coordinator Lebanon
IFRC / MENA	Melanie Ogle	DM and IP Coordinator	Swiss RC	Sofie Hirsig	Programme Coordinator
IFRC / MENA	Elham Elkafay	Community Health/FA focal point	Syrian Arab RC	Farah Rifae	Water &Construction Dp.Director
IFRC/ GVA	Aynur Kadihasanoglu	Senior Officer Urban DRM	Uganda RC	Robert Okumu	Project Manager IARP
IFRC/ GVA	Ela Serdaroglu	Shelter Lead	UN HABITAT	Riham Kowatly	Socio Urban Analysis Officer
IFRC/ GVA	Tiziana Bonzon	Migration Lead	UN HABITAT	Samer Chinder	Area Coordinator
IFRC /Luxem.RC	Antonella Vitale	Head of Shelter Research Unit	UN HABITAT	Tarek Osseiran	Program Manager
Iraq RC	Hayder Jaber	Head of Iraq RC office in Lebanon	UNHCR, Lebanon	Emmanuel Gignac	Deputy Representative (Operations)
Iraq RC	Dr. Mouayad Fadel	Director Joint Ops. for Iraq RC MENA			