CMI Peer to Peer Learning Workshop

Global Alliance for Urban Crises
I. Crisis Response in an Urban World
Our Urban Future

- **60%** of the world’s refugees are living towns and cities.
- **Over half of the 19.5 million refugees and 38 million internally displaced people** now reside outside camps in cities or informal settlements.
- By 2050, **70% of the world’s population** will live in urban areas.
- Over the past 40 years, the urban population in lower income and fragile situations is estimated to have increased by **326%**.
- Towns and cities generate **80% of the world’s GDP**.
- Developing countries host over **86% of the world’s refugees**, compared to 70% ten years ago.
Our Threatened Future

Cities’ role in enhancing our lives is increasing at the same rate as those lives are threatened. With rising sea levels claiming urban land area and rising global temperatures increasing the risk of drought and increased storm intensity, as well as an increasing number of forcibly displaced moving to cities, we are facing tremendous challenges in urban resilience.
Missed Opportunity

“Humanitarian actors are trying to deal with a crisis in a city and local authorities are trying to manage a city in crisis.”

- UN Habitat Representative
Hidden Value

**Humanitarian View**
- Emergency response
- Needs of the most vulnerable
- Do no harm
- No political stance
- Rights of all
- Access to quality programs

**Municipal View**
- Long-term planning
- Needs of all
- Economic development
- Political influence
- Often place-based
- Multi-sector planning
- Risk reduction

**Shared Goals**
- Sustainable interventions/strategies
- Medium-to-long term solutions
- Leveraging and strengthening existing systems
- Safety and security
- Social cohesion/inclusion
- Economic mobility
- Sharing of expertise and resources
II. Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Why the Alliance

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.
Charter

1. **Prioritize local municipal leadership** in determining response to urban crisis that is aligned with development trajectories and promotes the active participation of affected people.

2. **Adopt urban resilience as a common framework** to align human rights, humanitarian and development goals.

3. **Manage urban displacement** as a combined human rights, development and humanitarian concern.

4. **Build partnerships** between city, national, regional and global levels, across disciplines and professions and ensure involvement of local government and professional associations.
Recommendations

1. RECOGNIZE THE NATURE, SCALE AND COMPLEXITY OF URBAN CRISIS

   Emergency interventions must recognize the specificity of urban crises and that they require a more tailored response than is currently employed.

2. WORK WITH THE SYSTEMS THAT SHAPE CITIES

   Move from a mindset of supply to one of support, engage with local actors, and invest in the systems that shape cities (governance, society, markets and infrastructure).

3. MANAGE URBAN DISPLACEMENT

   Ensure that the most at-risk towns and cities are able to manage displacement, recognizing existing poverty and vulnerability in urban areas, and the added strain that displacement can place on local services.
# Global Alliance for Urban Crises

## Membership
- NGOs
- Development actors
- Donors
- Academia
- Foundations
- Government
- Other alliances

## Commitments
- Shared resources
- Collaboration
- Diversity of approaches
- *A unified way of responding to urban crises*

## Guiding Documents
- Charter
- Recommendations
Partnership

**Partners commit to:**

- Strengthen their 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;

- Make specific commitments to work with other partners to develop new initiatives that will operationalize the urban recommendations;

- Actively support the core functions of the Alliance.

To become a member or partner, email: [urban.session@whsummit.org](mailto:urban.session@whsummit.org)
www.urbancrises.org