

# Stronger Cities Initiative

## Harnessing and Enhancing Capacity to Respond to Crises



Crises in urban contexts challenge the traditional humanitarian approach to intervention. With over 50% of the world's population living in urban areas today, it is imperative that humanitarian actors adapt to these contexts and needs of urban populations affected by crisis.

### Project Description

The International Rescue Committee (IRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and World Vision, have undertaken an initiative to produce programmatic guidance for humanitarian response in urban settings. This brief provides information on the current activities being undertaken through October 2017 by the consortium. The projects are made possible with support from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) through the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID)-funded *Urban Crisis Learning Partnership* (2015 – 2017) and from European Commission (ECHO) as part of the *Improving Humanitarian Actor's Capacity to Response to Urban Crises* project (2015 – 2017).

### Context Analysis and Stakeholder Coordination Tools

The IRC will conduct a review, test and develop guidance on how to undertake a comprehensive context analysis (political economy, power dynamics, urban systems, markets, local actors and social and human capital) along with stakeholder coordination and decision-making tree for engagement. These tools will support the design and implementation of responses in urban settings.

### Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments, Response Analysis, and Targeting Guidance Tools

NRC will conduct a review, test and develop guidance for a mobile application tool to conduct multi-sectoral needs assessments, profiling, targeting and response analysis. The tool will profile the needs of the displaced, host and resident population and include key elements such as social capital and protection which are often overlooked to generate a response analysis.

### Integrated Program Models

To improve the adoption of holistic responses, the project will conduct a review of area-based and integrated programming and produce a programmatic guidance note on the following topics:

1. Operationalizing area-based approaches – World Vision
2. Leveraging cash, markets and the private sector with case studies from Lebanon and Nepal - World Vision
3. Housing, land and property rights with case study from Iraq - NRC
4. Integrated livelihoods and protection programs with case studies from Lebanon and Jordan - IRC

### Enhancing Client Voice in Service Delivery

To improve information exchange between service providers and users in urban crisis, the IRC will review the potential for scale-up of an innovative Web-based ServiceInfo app currently operational in Lebanon. The project will explore the impact of the app along with feasibility to scale.



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