



Topic: Urban

Scenario: Conflict

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Question 1: How do conflict and fragility translate to increased risk in urban settings of your country?

Conflict poses several risks in urban settings:

Loss of life and livelihoods within communities, separation of families and leading to potential trauma, stress and other psychological impacts on individuals, households and communities.

Marginalized groups such as minor ethnic groups, religious minorities or foreign nationals who may have less protection and support from the government, may be at increased risk of discrimination and violence against them. There is also increased risk of violence and abuse against women (gender-based violence), elderly and other vulnerable population groups.

Potential damage or destruction of critical infrastructure and disruption of critical services such as health care services, banking, education, sanitation services, humanitarian aid access, environmental degradation etc. In particular damage to WASH based infrastructure and services could see rise of health risk in urban settings.

Imposes potential limitations on peoples mobility, affecting their ability to access goods and services, travel to work, education, etc. Similarly, conflict may also disrupt movement of essential goods, creating supply challenges/issues (i.e relief items, food, medication, etc).

Inversely conflict also creates massive displacement, forcing people to move either within/out of borders, , placing strain and pressure on other locations services and infrastructure thus affecting the host communities. This if not well managed, creates animosity among the host and the displaced population and may fuel minor social conflicts.

Interesting point made by delegates is that government response to conflict may decrease trust in civic institutions (i.e police or disaster management) by certain population groups, particularly if the government is seen as the 'cause of the conflict, or as an aggressor'.

Question 2: Who does what in terms of DP in Urban / conflict in your country?

Due to low consideration of conflict risk and the sensitivity across the groups, responses varied on who takes/would take command/be responsible for particular actions of various conflict situations in an urban setting. In some cases responsibility for disaster preparedness and planning would be placed primarily upon Disaster management agencies, in which they would work in coordination with necessary local government departments and other key community stakeholders. In most cases Disaster management units would work closely with police and even the military in preparing for particular scenarios, usually in a joint command type structure. Among other groups, it was stated that the responsibility for disaster preparedness for conflict was limited and response primarily placed on the security forces such as the police and in more extreme examples such as an insurgency the military, with reduced support from disaster management agencies.

Other major stakeholders identified included organisations such as;

- Red Cross: providing first responders, humanitarian aid, medical supplies and services
- Human right groups to advocate for protection of vulnerable groups caught up in conflict
- Faith based groups, providing guidance, mediation, fundraising and resource mobilization, support and safe spaces for victims of violence.
- Media institutions providing news and information of situation on the ground.
- Local aid agencies and support systems, such as women support groups
- Various UN and international agencies providing support for delivering humanitarian aid, critical services and supplies, establishing safe spaces and corridors for movement.
- Early warning and monitoring agencies for dissemination of early warning information to inform timely preparedness action

Several members felt that the National government should take a central role to coordinate stakeholders, but civil society, private sector, development partners could support. Impartiality was considered a critical element when dealing with conflict situations

Question 3: What specific DP activities are relevant and feasible in contexts of potential conflict, including civil unrest?

Several DP activities identified by participants included the following:

Conducting Conflict-risk analysis to assess the context in a country/city, to ascertain the drivers of tension and factors that may lead to conflict. These analyses and assessments should guide disaster preparedness and planning, mapping of hotspots by the various stakeholders including government, community organisations, NGOs and aid agencies.

Analysis of triggers and alignment of appropriate course of action in the contingency plans

Another initiative is to identify institutions that deal with conflict resolution and resourcing them, as well as institutions that can be mobilised during a conflict situation to prevent, protect and support people.

Establishing and updating preparedness/contingency plans, for guiding preparedness activities and support in setting up facilities to host IDPs, create safe spaces, evacuation routes, including logistical mobility of aid. Election preparedness plans were cited as good practice, for the conflict prone countries.

Pre-positioning of food and non-food items, cash (availability of sensitive shock responsive safety nets,...

Strengthening /Developing capacity of disaster risk personnel on how to plan and prepare for conflict risks including other disasters in a conflict set-up, This aspect was regarded as priority and mentioned by all the groups. Peace building and conflict sensitive programmes were mentioned as good practices that had increased the communities tolerance.

Capacity strengthening for the religious and community leaders was singled out as key in averting conflict.

Another factor that was considered was to have Psychological support systems to assist those affected by conflict and provide them the help they need to overcome mental stress and trauma induced by conflict.

Kommentar [AP(N1): If ok we could leave out, assuming we all know what psychological support is for, but optional.



Question 4: How can ECHO support its partners' preparedness for conflict scenarios, in terms of capacity and safety / security?

Assist in developing capacity of Disaster management agencies, NGOs and government to prepare and handle conflict scenarios.

Support knowledge management platforms, for lesson learning, experience, information and best practice sharing among partners of existing , systems and structures.

Support capacities for conducting conflict risk analyses(to include vulnerabilities and capacity analysis) in urban areas to allow classifications of the conflicts scenarios and developing disaster preparedness plans for disaster scenarios.

Conduct advocacy to support partners preparedness activities.

Helping to acquire and supply critical equipment and systems to assist in safety and security. For example vehicles, data systems, monitoring systems *that can avail real-time data/reports*.

ECHO to utilize its networks and connections with institutions such as EU and other political groups to promote mediation and humanitarian diplomacy to reduce risk of conflict occurring

Question 5: How would confidentiality and data protection be ensured?

Participants struggled to answer this question, however were able to provide some interesting thoughts and insights. Participants indicated that conflict related data sharing was minimal if any.

They suggested that ECHO and its partners should require agencies to establish and enforce data protection policies and common protocols, including the encryption and strict access to particular documents and information. In this case ECHO could assist in developing capacity among agencies to manage and protect critical information and databases.

Aligned with this is the importance of ensuring there is a harmonization of data protection systems e.g., signing of non-disclosure agreements

They also suggested that partners should establish agreements for data sharing between entities to inform preparedness action, so as to allow more easier and safe movement of critical or private data in a timeous manner.



Question 6: How can ECHO and its partners best contribute to improving DP in urban / conflict settings?

Work with governments to enhance and review disaster preparedness plans and systems, providing guidance and support to Disaster management agencies, NGOs and government.

Set up workshops and platforms to share knowledge and experience among partners of best practices, systems and structures.

Assist in conducting regular conflict risk analyses and reviews of contingency planning, as well as regular capacity development through scenario trainings. Due to lack of a conflict-oriented risk analysis tool, the PESTEL (political, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal) analysis toolkit was proposed due to its comprehensive on conflict/fragility risk assessments.

Helping to acquire and supply critical equipment and systems to assist in safety and security.

Question 7A: What examples do you have of local / grassroots / indigenous knowledge and experience being used in this context in your country?

More often than not the participants , felt that the urban population not being a cohesive/ close knit population , such local/indigenous knowledge was less and not harmonized to trigger any action. Participants also ran out of time before being able to complete these last two questions. But some general insights were gained in the limited time;

Community leaders such as ward councillors, community action groups, faith based institutions, often have strong relationships and influence in their communities. Often during hardship (i.e. disaster or conflict) people turn to them for help and guidance. However these people/institutions may not have the correct information or disaster preparedness procedures available to adequately guide their constituents.

Importance of public spaces such as religious buildings , community centres and halls as safe spaces from conflict, where humanitarian assistance can be delivered to the community, prepositioning of aid and supplies.

Social media, local radio stations and WhatsApp groups have commonly been utilized to convey and share information among communities on preparedness, what to do in event of emergencies. However a challenge is that this may not always be correct, accurate or unbiased.

Question 7B: How can the use of such knowledge and experience be optimised?

It is important to include community leaders in disaster preparedness planning and making them custodians of DP information for their communities so that they can convey the correct information when necessary. Community leaders and institutions should therefore be considered a vital stakeholder and partner in any disaster preparedness including conflict scenarios.

Promote the use of responsible social media to share vital information to the general public, and the establishment of websites or mobile applications with information on safety and disaster preparedness for communities to have quick and easy access too.

In particular Youth education and training on disaster preparedness should be prioritized so that these principles and ideas are entrenched in their mindset.