

SA-IO Disaster Preparedness: ECHO and Partners' workshop

Breakout group: DP in Urban contexts / Conflict

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The current situation

- The cause-origin/politics of conflict generally hampers its DP. In many cases response is more welcome than preparedness
- It is not very clear on who is responsible for conflict preparedness in urban contexts- DM units, military/police
- There are no tools for risk assessment of conflict scenarios, contingency plans
- Conflicts are different, and the roles and responsibilities shift with the different situations.
- Conflict data sharing is very hard and sensitive
- Conflict in urban settings greatly affects mostly the communities that are already stressed/vulnerable, and the context is steadily growing in complexity.
- Conflict reduces access to basic services and resources
- Conflict increases vulnerable population as the displaced end up in the poor neighborhoods/host communities that are often highly vulnerable

Gaps to be filled / challenges to be addressed

- Inadequate examples where local/grassroots/indigenous knowledge and experience has been used in conflict management
- Lack of/outdated contingency plans for conflict in urban contexts; identifying triggers and thresholds; low understanding of the definition of conflict DP
- Lack of in-depth analysis of the root causes and drivers of conflict in urban contexts- piece meal information in place
- ? there is need to promote data sharing among partners
- Low awareness of conflict DP in urban contexts; inadequate data to inform the risk dimensions of conflict DP
- Collaboration of DRM units and security structures not existing/limited.
- Conflict sensitivity programming and do no harm approaches – limited in DP interventions- in project designs and monitoring process, focus on technical outputs

Role / added value for ECHO and its partners?

- Capacity building, and advocacy to prioritize disaster preparedness
- Capacity development in conflict management and peace building i.e. how to trigger dialogues to diffuse the tension;
- ECHO can utilize its networks and partners to promote mediation, dialogue and humanitarian diplomacy; Continuous advocacy of the IHL
- Advocacy on information sharing among partners
- Documentation of best practices, Sharing of lessons learnt between countries with similar contexts; Presenting evidence from other contexts
- Provide platforms for sharing and knowledge exchange i.e. workshops
- Flexible funding

Recommendations

- Learning from the community peace building techniques, empower the community leaders and opinion leaders to educate the communities- risk tolerance
- Address root causes and drivers for conflict through programme design linking work areas e.g., youth engagement/ target education systems , alternative livelihoods to achieve DP benefits
- Support the setup monitoring system that can help identify hot-spots, and have real-time reports including conflict scenarios
- Establish agreements for data sharing between entities to inform preparedness action/transboundary coordination.
- Establish/improve early warning systems for conflict e.g., for election periods, strengthen existing MHEWS
- Establishment of minimum standards for data and information management
- Promote incorporation of local/grassroots/indigenous knowledge to inform conflict preparedness plans
- DMAs-CP/DRR strategies/urban dev plans to consider conflict in prone areas.