

Invitation

LEARNING EVENT: Urban DRR

9.10.2017, 9:15 – 16:15, Swiss Red Cross, Rainmattstrasse 10, Berne

Background: Since the year 2008, more than 50% of the global population is living in cities, with the biggest urbanization expected to occur in mid-sized towns and cities in Africa and Asia. While urbanization brings along various opportunities, unplanned and rapid urbanization comes along with considerable risks for the population. Cities are also often located in areas that are highly exposed to natural hazards, such as floodplains, coastal belts and on fault lines, with the high density of assets and people being vulnerable to disastrous effects should an extreme event strike. Risk reduction in urban contexts poses new challenges for the Swiss DRR community, which has traditionally been more engaged in rural settings. Density, diversity of stakeholders and interests as well as complexity in terms of structures, actors and processes create changing opportunities for NGOs and civil society. NGOs should not limit themselves to the provision of services or the enhancement of infrastructure, as the scale and costs of such services will exceed their capacity. Instead, they should act as facilitators between the population at risk and their municipal representatives, ensuring that the voices of the poor are heard and they are not bearing the cost of (unplanned) risk-insensitive urban development. The learning event will introduce into the context of urban hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities and allow participants to take a systems-perspective to account for a city's complexity. Illustrated by case studies from Latin America and Asia, participants will discuss scope for intervention in urban contexts and familiarize with approaches to substantially support vulnerable urban communities.

Objective: Familiarize and Sensitize participants of the specific challenges that working on Urban DRR can pose and share good practices of NGOs providing entry points for successful programming.

Programme Outline

Time	Content	Methodology	Responsible
9:00	Arrival, Registration, Coffee		
09.15	Welcome and introduction		Jana
09.30	Understanding urban disaster risk: Hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities	Presentation	Jana/Aynur
10:00	Group work part I: Understanding urban contexts	Interactive group work along: 1) Urban infrastructure and systems 2) Urban actors: people and institutions 3) Laws, regulations, behavioural and cultural aspects	Facilitated by Aynur/Gavin
10.40	Coffee Break		
11:00	Short inputs from Swiss NGOs on aspects of Urban DRR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRC: Risk assessments in Nepal - CACH: mobility and informality in Bangladesh - StC: child-centred Urban DRR 	Short presentations and plenary Q&A	Helen, Jan, Sarah Discussion facilitated by Anton
12:00	Group work part II: Towards change in urban contexts	Groups agree on specific change factors they focus to work on	Facilitated by Aynur/Gavin
12.45	Lunch Break		
13:30	Group work part II (continued): Presentation of results	Groups present their findings	Facilitated by Aynur/Gavin
14:00	Case Study : Riohacha Urban DRR Interactive learning path along the implementing steps of the programme	Interactive presentation	Gavin
15.30	Bringing it together: Niches for NGOs and community-based approaches in urban DRR, take home messages	Working on flipcharts/pinboards	Facilitated by Gavin, Anton, Jana
16.00	Wrap-Up, evaluation and open discussion for follow-up with coffee		Jana

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Participants List:

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