

The Urban Analysis Network Syria (UrbAN-S) builds on three years of work analysing urban areas in Syria, with the objective of contributing to holistic urban information and analysis for better planning, targeting and monitoring of interventions.

Background

The UrbAN-S understands the analysis of urban areas as an adaptive exercise for understanding how cities are (or are not) functioning, and how the people living in them cope during and in the aftermath of the Syrian conflict. UrbAN-S brings a combination of expertise in urban analysis, information management, and collaborative and inclusive approaches to better understand information needs on the ground, to make information more relevant and more accessible, and to build the capacity of local partners to use that information.

The UrbAN-S project will provide interested actors access to up-to-date and accurate analysis of critically affected cities in Syria, based on information on sectors and urban systems, such as demography and population movement, skills and labour force, economy, markets and livelihoods, services and infrastructure, shelter and damage, housing, governance, protection and HLP, quality of urban life and access to public spaces, mobility and transport, and urban-regional connectivity.

To achieve better and more holistic responses in urban areas, the UrbAN-S will operate in close collaboration with the existing structures and coordination mechanisms of Syria, supporting the planning for durable solutions, post-conflict peace-building and stabilisation, as well as integrated response planning. The expected direct impact of these actions will be to provide operational actors with the required tools, approaches and expertise to inform and improve planning and response in Syrian cities.

The objective of UrbAN-S is framed within the global efforts to enhance responses in urban areas, including the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which called for a paradigm shift in humanitarian assistance in urban areas to be community-based, rather than an individual beneficiary approach. This includes increased assistance support, filling gaps in existing institutions rather than establishing parallel systems, and strengthening linkages between humanitarian and development initiatives.

PRODUCTS



City Profiles

City Profiles are snapshots of the conditions in cities that have been affected by displacement and conflict. A comprehensive City Profile includes a) displacement and population profiles; b) population needs and their level of access to services, compared to the functionality and performance of services; c) an analysis of the stakeholders, conflict dynamics and risks; and d) an analysis of the urban governance and policy environment. This information is collected through qualitative and quantitative data collection, and will be tailored to the specific needs and requirements of local, humanitarian and development actors in each of the selected urban areas. Because the Network tailors its information products, the City Profiles will adapt to specific contexts and demands. While the information will be structured under a holistic urban analysis framework, a dive-deep into sectoral Information and analysis will be provided as needed.



Damage Needs Assessment (DNA)

Damage Needs Assessments (DNA) looks specifically at the level of functionality of services and infrastructure in urban areas. The DNA combines remote sensing information based on satellite imagery for a rapid overview, with a deeper dive into the impact of this damage in the provision of services to the population in the short and long term.



Capacity Building

As part of the core set of interventions to support the partners to better analyse the urban context, the UrbAN-S partners plan to develop and provide training for local partners coordinating data collection exercises, for building technical capacity in analysing data, and for facilitating joint analysis workshops. These capacity building initiatives will be opened to a wide array of stakeholders interested in enhancing their understanding of analysis in urban settings or those actors who are planning or are implementing City Profiles or DNAs.

¹ For more information on the MHCUA, please check the IASC Strategy on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, the IASC Second Action Plan on MHCUA, and the draft Guidance Note for Improving Coordination and Responses to Urban Crises in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle through the IASC and its Cluster System.



Urban Information Web Portal

The web portal is where the collected and updated information will be stored in an interactive and spatial repository so that operational partners, local actors and donors can easily navigate through the spatial information, and download related snapshots and reports. The web portal will be used for a variety of purposes such as on-going monitoring reports, city dashboards, and to communicate the profiles of specific neighbourhoods where response is a priority. The Web Portal will also support other initiatives that inform programs for displaced Syrians both living inside and outside Syria.

Partners

UrbAN-S is a partnership of actors wishing to contribute in different capacities to high standard urban analysis for the Syria crisis to enable effective planning and response.

iMMAP:

Lead coordinator of the UrbAN-S process, ensuring successful linkages and outreach with the wide array of Syria-focussed and global partners and stakeholders.

Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS):

Leads the capacity-building by developing the framework for analysis collaboratively with partners and designing training material to fit local needs.

Mercy Corps/Humanitarian Access Team (HAT):

The HAT team will be in charge of producing conflict analysis for each City Profile and will contribute to other products such as the framework for analysis.

European Commission - Joint Research Centre (JRC):

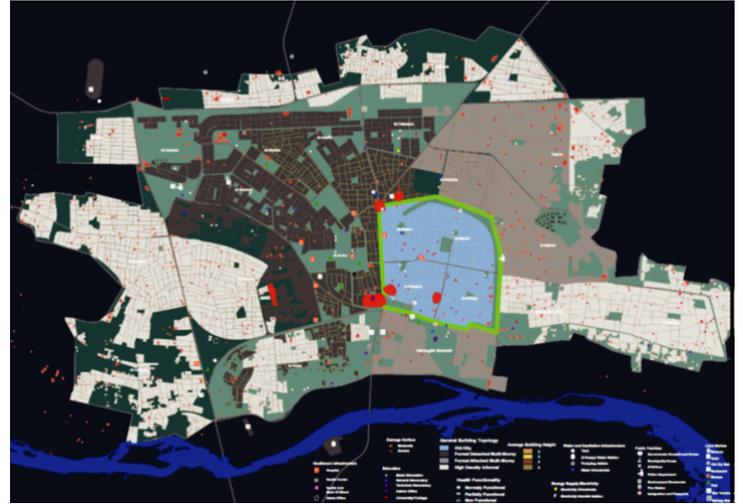
Leads on the Damage Needs Assessments through satellite imagery and remote sensing analysis, and providing the spatial layers on land-uses.

Common Space Initiative (CSI):

Brings senior Syrian urban management expertise, as well as support to conflict analysis.

UNHCR Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM)/IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (IMSI)/Population Monitoring Initiative (PMI):

Various UNHCR initiatives in Syria will act as complementary sources of information and profiling activities for the wider community to access.



Better DATA

Improve data quality, collection and timeliness to stimulate sharing and coordination



Better DECISIONS

Analyze and visualize data to support better decision making



Better OUTCOMES

Maximize program outcomes and make a difference

iMMAP's services have facilitated informed and effective disaster risk management, emergency response, and development activities by enabling evidence-based decision-making for cluster/sector leads, critical NGO, and government operations. iMMAP's goal is to alleviate the suffering of victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts by providing the humanitarian community with a decision-making service through the provision of recent, reliable and appropriate geographical and strategic information.