



Urban Recovery Framework Task Force for Syria

Urban Profiling to Strengthen the Conditions for Inclusive Urban Recovery and Returns in Syria

Services: Research and Analysis (Urban Profiling), Data Management, GIS, Information Management, Data Visualization and Field Operations.

Objectives

- 1 To assist Syrian civil society and experts with the productive use of urban information and analysis to promote dialogue and to inform the design of urban recovery policy and the planning of urban recovery programming to support resilience and durable solutions.
- 2 To grant humanitarian, return, and resilience civil society and response actors access to detailed and up-to-date analytical outputs on conditions for urban recovery and return in key Syrian cities that have been profiled during the Urban Analysis Network - Syria (UrbAN-S) project, and where data exist already to target, plan, implement and monitor interventions.
- 3 To engage return and resilience civil society actors with the establishment of inclusive urban recovery policies, procedures and pilots on the ground.

Background

Cities in Syria have bore the brunt of the Syrian conflict and urban planning must incorporate both physical infrastructure as well as social cohesion. After nine years of crisis and conflict that destroyed the physical and social fabric of Syrian communities, rebuilding the social contract is the keystone to long-term change. Cities are home to an estimated 70% of the Syrian population, making them the necessary sites for rebuilding the social contract and ensuring that urban plans are approached in a conflict-sensitive manner.

The nature of the response in Syria is clearly shifting from lifesaving humanitarian assistance to more sustained protection and resilience-oriented interventions that aim to respond to increasing numbers of returning IDPs and refugees – often from rural to urban areas. More immediately, as urban resilience programming increases the absence of community-led area-based response models, up-to-date urban data and detailed contextual and conflict analysis raise the risk of aid diversion, legitimization of exclusionary systems and administrative models, and the reinforcement of negative coping mechanisms in dealing with the conflict's strategic, social and economic impacts. The toll of the conflict across all aspects of urban Syria requires an approach to urban recovery that places communities at the centre of urban recovery policy, programming and investments.



Around **760,000** housing units in Syrian cities have been damaged, while more than 50% of hospitals in Syrian cities have been rendered inoperative.



Syria remains a complex humanitarian situation with more than **6.1 million** internally displaced persons (IDPs).

(sources: UN-Habitat and OCHA)

Project Duration:

February 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021

Cumulative Budget:

EUR 3,100,000

Donor: **European Union (EU)**

Focus: **Syria**



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The Urban Recovery Framework (URF), in the context of conflict, is “an enabling institutional and policy framework and related programming to support resilient urban recovery at scale and renewal of social cohesion.”

The development of an operational URF for Syria will require a new approach to engaging and convening relevant international stakeholders and connecting them directly with the affected population. This process will be built upon up-to-date and reliable urban data, strong contextual and conflict analysis, that is informed by urban policy research and dialogues which bring together Syrian experts from all sides of the conflict.

Against this backdrop, the project “Urban Recovery Framework Task Force for Syria: Urban Profiling to Strengthen the Conditions for Inclusive Urban Recovery and Returns in Syria” was developed. This project incorporates a variety of outputs including Localized Needs Assessments, Thematic Papers and Situation Reports as building blocks to facilitate the URF for Syria. These outputs aim to safeguard civil society and experts’ access to urban information and analyses, allowing for engagement in establishing inclusive urban recovery policies and procedures on the ground, promoting dialogue and informing the design of urban recovery policy, and planning urban recovery programming to support resilience and durable solutions.

Outputs



Thematic Papers

These papers will focus on pressing urban recovery topics and addressing approaches and conditions for sustainable social and economic recovery. The topics these papers will delve into are five-fold:

- Cultural heritage and restoration of urban identity
- Environmental challenges and recovery
- Planning frameworks for urban recovery

- Recovery of infrastructure and services
- The role of municipalities and governorates in facilitating sustainable social, economic and urban recovery



Dashboard

This product will visualize urban functionality, damage to services, conflict dynamics, population presence by neighborhood, and the housing land and property situation in Syria.



Situation Reports

Situation reports are flexible, demand-driven products that will identify emerging issues and urban response gaps. These findings will be used to initiate relevant discussions around urban recovery, informing programming and policy dialogues.



Localized Needs Assessments

The objective of this product is to address the impact and consequences of the conflict in a spotlighted city, the city’s social, economic, political and environmental dynamics, and to seek elements for peacebuilding and recovery. These assessments will also provide a link between thematic papers and area-based planning, by localizing country-wide trends within the specific contexts of cities.