

TITLE	The Urban Amplifier. Adapting to Urban Specificities.		
AUTHOR	ECHO		
PUBLISHER	ECHO		
LANGUAGE	English		
COUNTRY	Belgium	YEAR	2017

LINK	http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/factsheet/Urban_Report_final_version_printed.pdf
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DOCUMENT TYPE	<input type="checkbox"/> - BOOK/PUBLICATION <input type="checkbox"/> - SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE	<input type="checkbox"/> - TEXTBOOK <input type="checkbox"/> - OTHER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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KEY WORDS	- disasters prevention - preparedness - response to disasters - civil protection - integration - migrants/migrations - multicultural societies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (free) KEY WORDS	- Good practices
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ABSTRACT	<p>Humanitarian crises of natural and man-made origin highlight the relevance of urban settings, at a time when 70% of the world population will live in cities by 2050. Recent earthquakes in Nepal and Ecuador, hurricanes in Haiti and the Philippines, and floods in Bangladesh, the Balkans and West Africa, are examples in which the vulnerabilities of urban settings have been exposed to natural disasters. Urban warfare and violence are significantly on the rise, with over 50 million people affected globally by armed conflict in cities such as Aleppo, Homs, Luhansk, Donetsk, Bangui or Maiduguri 2 . Forced displacement in urban contexts is now the norm: over 60% of refugees and 80% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide have sought refuge in cities 3 . The characteristics of urban settings present a number of challenges impacting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. They are complex, populated and politicised environments, in which local capacities and non-traditional actors contribute to the effectiveness of humanitarian response. The European Commission's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) has taken stock of its funded interventions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its humanitarian response in urban environments. Based on an internal survey undertaken in 2017, this report highlights the wealth of experiences and good practices, and provides the basis on which to consolidate a leading role among actors engaged in urban settings. Urban interventions address the full cycle from disaster risk reduction (DRR) and preparedness to response and recovery; in a range of contexts, including conflict and other situations of violence, displacement, epidemics and natural disasters; and involve a wide range of actors.</p>
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EDITED BY	PPI	YEAR	2019
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