IASC task force: why?

• Inter-Agency Standing Committee: ensure humanitarian coordination
• Cities brought on the agenda because:
  – Crises increasingly affect cities; humanitarian actors need to adapt their approach
  – Urbanisation increases the risk of crisis
• Task Force chaired by UN Habitat – FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, NGOs

Crises accelerate urbanisation

• People leave rural areas because of:
  – armed conflict
  – food insecurity and destitution
• ...and settle in urban and peri-urban areas
  – living in precarious situations
  – adding to the problems of urban populations
• Most will never return
  – because they get used to the city
  – because they have nowhere worth going back to
The role of food and agriculture in emergencies

• Strengthen livelihoods of food insecure households
• Increase food availability
• Typical emergency relief interventions
  – distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds and tools, small livestock, boats and fishing equipment...)
  - training

Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas

• Institutional:
  – Humanitarian actors must collaborate with urban institutions, authorities and partners
  – Municipalities and local institutions are not familiar with the humanitarian set-up
• Operational:
  – Organizational tools, procedures and capacities need to be adapted
  – Humanitarian response & risk reduction should be linked
  – Humanitarian assistance must lead to recovery and sustainability
Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (cont.)

- Requires an integrated approach
  - Shelter, housing, land and property rights
  - Food security (incl. food assistance)
  - Water, sanitation and hygiene
  - Basic health care
  - Protection, Security and Gender Based Violence
- and therefore a common framework

We therefore should...

- Adapt tools, guidelines and procedures for use in urban areas
- Assess capacities of urban authorities, NGOs and civil society
- Collate and share typologies of urban humanitarian crisis
By the end of 2010

**The Task Force aims to:**
- provide an inventory of relevant tools and methodologies
- enhance IASC understanding of effectiveness of current methods, practices and capacity needs, (including through country case studies)
- to improve knowledge management and sharing of tools and experiences (MHCUA page on One Response website)

MHCUA: an opportunity?

- Food security & livelihoods are brought to the urban debate (in particular urban and peri-urban agriculture)
- Effective integration of humanitarian response
- Emergency operations must go beyond food production (in particular processing and marketing)
- Increased food availability and quality can benefit urban consumers
- Appropriate agriculture practices can contribute to DRM (for resilient cities)
So let’s join forces

We cannot keep these issues separate any longer

...so we can’t deal with them alone

*Let’s network?*