

## **UCLG INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND**

### **DRAFT BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR DISCUSSION**

**This document is in 2 parts:**

- **Part 1: principles**
- **Part 2: guidelines**

### **BACKGROUND AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

Local governments are at the front line when a crisis hits their territory. The most vulnerable among them, however, are often unprepared to cope.

In most cases local governments are not involved in decision-making on reconstruction projects, they are only consulted to provide data that are often misconstrued. This lack of coordination generates a dual governance system and the projects put in place are not sustainable. United Cities and Local Governments has for a long time been committed to gaining recognition of the role played by local and regional authorities in crisis management and prevention. Training local representatives and helping them to build resilient governance by fully subscribing to the Sendai framework is a priority.

Solidarity is the backbone of our movement. UCLG is committed to helping cities and territories hit by sudden crises, enabling their members to join forces in solidarity. To meet this dual objective, UCLG has created a territorial crisis prevention and management working group. The working group provides:

- A platform for the exchange of knowledge related to disaster management by local governments;
- A technical platform to capitalize on lessons learned to advance the role of local governments in international disaster management within the global agenda;
- An articulated technical and financial support to LRGs in crisis.

In order to express strong and concrete solidarity to, from, and among LRGs and in order to propose specific help to LRGs in crisis the working group created a new tool: **the international solidarity fund**.

### **WHY?**

We decided to create this new framework:

- To establish concrete solidarity actions of our world network when a major crisis affected a local authority;
- To made needs of local authorities affected a priority;
- To propose sustainable actions to *build back resilient*;
- To mobilize local and regional technical cooperation and assistance from LRGs to LRGs in crisis.

## WHAT?

When a major crisis strikes in the world, UCLG members, local authorities and their associations mobilize themselves in order to express their solidarity by raising funds to help cities and territories affected in the phase of reconstruction and rehabilitation according to their needs and with the explicit purpose to help them be more resilient and better prepared to face another crisis.

Hence, projects and activities to develop are discussed directly with the LRGs affected, to determine their needs and priorities.

Each situation is different and the type of activities must be defined according to the specific situation, but all work plans developed under the International Fund will include important components:

- **Focus on LRGs priorities:** the affected cities and territories are the direct beneficiary of the activities and they can play a role on the implementation;
- **Rehabilitation and reconstruction** following the principle of build back resilient and support cooperation programs;
- **Learning:** in particular through peer to peer exchanges;
- **Communication and visibility** to show a common initiative coming from LRGs to LRGs in order not to leave LRGs alone but continue to support them until they are full recovery and better prepared;
- **Mapping** local authorities needs;
- **Coordination** with local authorities at the centre.

## WHEN?

When a major crisis strikes a city or a territory, the UCLG working group for territorial prevention and management of crisis activate the fund, in coordination with the World Secretariat. The request for assistance can come directly from the cities and territories affected, their national networks of local authorities, and/or from UCLG regional sections. The practical guide of the fund, in the annexe, defines modalities.

## **Annexe 1 GUIDELINES**

### **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

The main phases:

#### **First steps:**

- 1) A decision is made to launch the fund after an evaluation of the situation. The UCLG working group, in partnership with the UCLG World Secretariat, will take the decision to launch the call;
- 2) A letter is written signed by the President of the UCLG working group and co-signed by either a representative of the UCLG regional sections or national association of LA of the territory where crisis occurred. The letter is sent to all UCLG Regional sections who will be responsible to forward it to the national associations of local authorities in the Region. The national associations will share the call for solidarity directly to their members;
- 3) Crowdfunding: the call of solidarity is aimed to: a) express solidarity to our partner; b) start the collect of funds (crowdfunding). In order to give to all local and regional authorities, their associations and the UCLG regional sections, the possibility to participate to the initiative, different options are offered:
  - The UCLG working group will open a bank account specifically for this operation. Cities, Regions, national networks, can express their solidarity by sending their contributions directly to this account;
  - Regional sections can do the same and decide either to contribute to the UCLG working group account or to keep it and manage their contributions **accordingly to the common program that will be set-up**;
  - National networks of local authorities can take the same steps as the Regional Sections.

All the resources that are collected will be used to implement the same common program of activities that will be decided in a second phase in order to concentrate the efforts and have a larger and better impact on the ground.

#### **Actions:**

- 1) First contact and assessment phase: a technical visit, open also to elected officials, will be organised in coordination with the regional sections and national networks, in order to assess the situation and needs with special attention to the city perspectives, needs and priorities;
- 2) Discussion around program: after the mission a steering committee composed by donors or their representative will be setup. It will meet physically or/and by phone in order to discuss potential activities to be implemented. In this phase, all suggestions will be studied carefully in order to better answer to needs that have been assessed.

After the program of activities is set-up and agreed upon, the international fund can be open for the support and contributions of other donors (European Union, agencies...).

### **Governance:**

- 1) Creation and role of the steering committee: a steering committee composed by the donors who contribute to the fund will be created: his role will be to: a) decide on the allocation of the resources accordingly to the needs; b) report on the advancement of the operations and eventually redefine priorities accordingly to the situation;
- 2) How to deliver: Once the collection of funds is underway, and the plan of the activities decided, the steering committee will contract (MoU) with partners in charge to deliver. Regional sections, national networks and cities, according to their capacity to manage funds, are key partners both for the follow-up of activities, and for the implementation. They will be held accountable to the steering committee for the activities implemented;
- 3) Managing and follow-up: the UCLG working group will manage the entirety of the programs in coordination with all partners:
  - Follow-up the contracting parts with partners (MoU);
  - Report on the activities implemented on the ground and preparation of a final report for the steering committee. The working group will also report to the steering group regarding any potential problems, specific needs, or any decisions that need to be taken. All members of the UCLG working group can contribute technically to the implementation and follow-up of the activities as needed, during each step of the program.