



Area Based Approaches in Urban Areas



Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

Urban Settlements Working Group

What is it?

The Settlements Approach, also known as the Area-Based Approach, is an approach to response and recovery that is characterised as

- ***geographically targeted,***
- ***inclusive and***
- ***multi-sectoral***

It is not new:

Area Based Approaches builds on experiences of urban and regional planners working on community renewal through geographically-based, multi-sectoral initiatives in poor and vulnerable locations since the 1960s and 1970s

It is Gaining momentum:

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's call in 2010 for a "*paradigm shift in humanitarian assistance in urban areas, based on a community-based - rather than - an individual beneficiary approach.*"

The Habitat III Summit, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises and strategy papers by OFDA, ECHO, and UNHCR have acknowledged and promoted their application



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Global Shelter Cluster:

Settlement Approaches in Urban Areas WG

The GSC Urban Settlements WG was established in May 2017 to further the **piloting and application of area based approaches**, and **advocating at the global level**. Overall aims are to:

- **Identify best practices and lessons learnt**
- **Develop tools and guidance on settlement approaches and their application based on proven case studies.**
- **Link with other clusters, Engage with relevant non-cluster platforms and actors.**

What has occurred so far:

Definitions paper: Area/settlement based approaches

Settlement case studies compendium: 30 case studies in total and macro analysis

Championed into Sphere 2018:

Piloting Area Based Coordination: Funding received from GSC to pilot in an agreed urban crisis in 2018

Continued working group sessions: every 6weeks, participation by 20 organisations from other cluster too.



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Focusing on Area Based Approaches in three strands

**Area Based
Assessments**

**Area Based
Coordination**

**Area Based
Programming**



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