

Urban WASH Technical Working Group (TWiG)
IFRC
Terms of Reference August 2024 – August 2025

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Context

Traditionally, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programming in the Red Cross Red Crescent network has focused on the needs of rural communities. With the increase of WASH needs in urban areas in the last decades, efforts were placed by the RCRC network in the past to operate in this context. National Societies like Philippines Red Cross, Kenya Red Cross and Nepal Red Cross, among others, extended their WASH operations to the urban area and helped to shape the Urban WASH discussion globally within the network. The first Urban WASH TWG was initiated in 2016 by IFRC with the development of the first IFRC position paper for Urban WASH in 2017. Lately several partners like Ghana Red Cross have introduced a different focus in Urban WASH and contributed to understand the different modalities and partnerships for delivering Urban WASH programming. Despite this progress several partners in the RCRC network pointed to the fact that, at present, WASH investment, efforts and technical expertise in urban context are still limited, and that current challenging trends associated to climate change urges the WASH RCRC network to update and scale up the scope of Urban WASH

Urbanization is up to this time a demanding trend and a challenge for the WASH sector. As of 2023, 54% of the world's population lives in urban areas. Rapid urbanization continues, while access to basic services like sanitation has declined in urban settings. The ongoing urbanization combined with climate change and the geographical location of many urbanizing contexts, leads to increased risks of urban disasters happening. Furthermore, the majority of refugees (60%) and internally displaced people (IDPs) (80%) seek refuge in cities or per-urban areas (UNHCR, 2024).

There is an urgent need for the WASH Red Cross Red Crescent network to expand the focus of Urban WASH incorporating some of the current challenges National Societies face in the context of climate change but also building on the experience gained in the last years in countries like Ghana and others. The set up of a TWG provides a forum to National Societies to discuss, reflect and agree on future scope and strategies to support effective and high-quality water, sanitation and hygiene access in urban areas, both in emergency- and developmental contexts.

Purpose

The purpose of IFRC's Urban WASH Technical Working Group (TWiG) is to contribute to the growth of the Urban WASH file within the Red Cross Red Crescent network, through increased collaboration, joint development of approaches, guidelines, and expertise and experience sharing.

Scope of work

This ToR is developed for the period August 2024 – August 2025. The ToR has been developed on the assumption that there are no specific funds available to support the work described under this ToR and that the time required for achieving the objectives and outcomes will be volunteered by the TWiG members. The intention has been to define realistic and achievable objectives and outputs. In case the funding situation changes, this ToR should be adjusted.

Objectives and outputs

Objective 1. An active and accessible platform to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing

Outcomes

- Monthly meetings, with an option for members to add specific issues to the agenda.
- Database with relevant resources, reports and guidelines from the wider sector
- Support the revision of the Urban WASH section of the IFRC watsanmissionassistant, to make tools and guidelines easily available and accessible, also outside of the RCRC network.

Objective 2. Joint improvement of the Urban WASH component of the IFRC WASH global strategic direction and support its implementation.

Outcomes

- A participatory process leading to an IFRC Urban WASH approach owned by the RCRC network partners

Objective 3. Joint development of operational guidance and tools

Outcomes

- Operational guidance on public water and sanitation service provider (utility) collaboration
- Support integration of developed Urban WASH concepts in general WASH trainings for WASH staff
- Development of the narrative for targeted Urban WASH interventions building on the concepts of Humanitarian-Development nexus
- Technical webinars organized by the TWiG (2 webinars)

Objective 4. Resource Mobilization for Urban WASH projects

Outcomes

- 2 RCRC project proposals/concept notes developed aligned with the Urban WASH approach
- Support IFRC Resource Mobilization colleagues in developing and sustaining relations with major donors for Urban WASH
- Guidance to NS planning to meet with partners and donors in country interested in the RCRC Urban WASH concept and / or proposals.
- Support IFRC to present the Urban WASH concept to interested partners and donors regionally and globally (2 presentations / meeting held).

Objective 5. Assess the NS interest for trainings

Outcomes

- A survey conducted among RCRC national societies WASH staff to assess training interests and identify relevant sub-topics in the field of humanitarian response and developmental urban WASH
- Training interest matrix for 2025 available to be shared with partners and donors.

Objective 6. Urban WASH in Emergencies

Outcomes

- Contribute to the development of Urban WASH specific concepts and components for institutional disaster preparedness outside of the RCRC network
- Support the integration of Urban WASH specific training components in emergency response trainings curriculums.

Membership

All interested colleagues from the Red Cross Red Crescent network are welcome to participate. The aim is to engage as much as possible with colleagues from implementing (host) national societies, instead of only partner national societies.

Yearly review of ToR

This ToR will be reviewed on a yearly basis, unless there is a jointly agreed reason to review the ToR earlier.