



*Invitation – Kick-off COVID Cluster Crisis Management*

Thinking and Acting beyond Disasters

Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 15:30 – 17:30 CEST

**Location:** [Connective Cities Community](#)  
**Language:** English. Interpretation available in German, Spanish and Arabic.  
**Contact:** Paulina Koschmieder ([paulina.koschmieder@giz.de](mailto:paulina.koschmieder@giz.de)),  
Basma Mansour ([Basma.mansour@kompetus.de](mailto:Basma.mansour@kompetus.de))

### Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent natural disasters (including the fires and floods in Europe, Asia, and America) have had a devastating impact on human lives, infrastructures, and communities. Hence, the need for disaster management has become inevitably urgent.



Figure 1: Phases of disaster management

Municipalities are often the first to respond to disasters. They are also key players when it comes to building resilient communities and developing recovery measures after disasters. As health and natural disasters have become every time more frequent, municipalities around the world need to enhance their preparedness and resilience to mitigate their impacts.

### Kick-off event

Connective Cities is pleased to announce the kick-off event for the Disaster Management Cluster on the topic *Thinking and Acting beyond Disasters* on **Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 from 15:30 – 17:30 CEST (Berlin Time)**.

The event has been designed together with urban practitioners and for the practical work in the municipalities. The following topics have been initially identified in the area of Disaster Management (however, participants to the event can include their own experiences):

1. Setting up systems for disaster management (measures, roles, structure, use of IT etc.)
2. Public sensitization and communication
3. Involvement of volunteers and civil society
4. Creation of risk culture at the municipal and public level

5. Disaster management in specific action areas, such as the breakdown of critical infrastructure, floods, or fire.

On this basis, the following questions will be discussed in the kick-off workshop:

- What are typical challenges on a municipal level concerning disaster management?
- How to prepare for disasters?
- How to set up disaster management, even with low (human and financial) resources?

Contents & Speakers:

- **Mr. Henning Schulz**, former mayor of the German city of Gütersloh, who will provide an overview of disaster management from a municipal viewpoint and report about his experiences on disaster management during the COVID-19 pandemic and innovative solutions.
- **Mr. Felix Richter**, CEO of Kompetus Consulting, who has more than 20 years of project experience in management consulting for the public sector and is a former trainer for the Academy for International Cooperation (AIZ) for experts travelling to fragile countries. He will provide an overview of crises management planning and execution for municipalities – from a practical perspective.

Furthermore, results of our first international survey on Disaster Management among municipalities will be presented.

During the kick-off workshop, municipal practitioners can bring in and discuss their questions and challenges, as well as discuss solutions to and lessons learned from the crisis.

Follow-up workshops

After the kick-off event, we will organise **2-3 follow-up workshops** for municipal practitioners, depending on individual interests and demands. In these **two hour-sessions**, selected topics can be discussed more in-depth. With the support of experienced consultants and experts, there is the possibility to share individual challenges, discuss possible solutions and learn from others. Ideally, new solutions and activities will be identified.

Municipal representatives and urban practitioners are highly encouraged to participate in these workshops. Interested actors from the private sector, civil society and academia are also welcome to participate. The participants will have the opportunity to propose their topics of interest and to continue the dialogue within the working groups.

The event language will be English with interpretation in Spanish, Arabic and German. The detailed agenda will be provided shortly and can be accessed at the Kick-off Event: [Thinking and Acting beyond Disasters](#).

For more information about the COVID Cluster Crisis Management and the respective working groups and workshops, please visit the designated pages in our [Connective Cities Community](#).

We are looking forward to a valuable exchange!

Partners of Connective Cities



Commissioned by

