

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2016

Investing in Humanity: meeting the needs of vulnerable people in 2016

USAID, Development Initiatives and
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Monday, 27 June, 13:30 – 14:45
Conference Room 1, United Nations Secretariat, New York

This is one of the side events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

Over the past 5 years, humanitarian needs as well as funding requirements have increased due to a number of factors including more frequent and severe natural disasters, renewed intensity of conflicts, and increased costs per person (partly linked to crises occurring in middle-income countries). Affected people are at the centre of humanitarian financing with more than 130 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (as per estimate of the Global Humanitarian Overview in May 2016) – five times greater than a decade ago. As these needs have grown, the proportion of unmet UN-coordinated appeals has also increased from 39 per cent in 2014 to 45 per cent in 2015.

The event will seek to provide insights on investment needed for the remainder of 2016 and beyond - both inside and outside the UN-coordinated inter-appeals - in order to better serve the needs of people in need and save more lives. To enable decision-makers to allocate available resources on the basis of meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people in a timely and effective manner, an accurate picture of needs against funding is critical. The mobilization of resources from a more diverse range of actors - beyond traditional donors to include private sector - is also imperative given the truly unprecedented scale of current needs.

Main objectives:

- Presentations on up-to-date trends in humanitarian financing, drawing upon key findings from the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2016 June Status Report and the Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) 2016 report will set the context for the current state of global needs and funding to inform the discussion of the presenters, respondents and participants on meeting the needs of vulnerable people in 2016.
- To identify concrete approaches for addressing the funding gap – both in term of mobilizing additional resources and using the resources that are available more effectively - in line with the recommendations emerging from the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) on humanitarian financing and further build confidence of current and potential donors in the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of the system. Particular focus will be placed on the role of the private sector, local actors, Global South and non-DAC donors, and multilateral development banks.

Discussion points

Against this backdrop, the side event will focus on the following suggested questions:

1. What role can other actors play in addressing the financing gap, specifically with regards to chronically underfunded emergencies? What lessons can be drawn from the engagement of local actors, the private sector, the general public, or banks to date?
2. What barriers currently exist in the pursuit of a harmonious and effective relationship between the humanitarian system and the general public, private sector and other non-

traditional sources of funding? What can be done to strengthen donor coordination and alignment?

3. What role could Multilateral Development Banks be playing in engaging with and supporting better transition and coordination between development and humanitarian actors to ensure sufficient resources are harnessed to better meet needs?

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

The event will seek to provide insights on investment needed for the remainder of 2016 and beyond - both inside and outside the UN-coordinated inter-appeals - in order to better serve the needs of people in need.

The convened group of expert presenters and respondents will draw on lessons learned to outline how the humanitarian funding resource base can be broadened and expanded beyond traditional actors to help fill the funding gap whilst maintaining effective and coordinated humanitarian action.

Format

Description:

Two presentations on the following:

- A presentation on the funding status and implementation progress of the humanitarian operations in the 40 countries highlighted in the Global Humanitarian Overview 2016 including underlining underfunded emergencies.
- Development Initiatives will provide an overview of up-to-date trends in humanitarian financing key drawing upon the findings of the forthcoming 2016 Global Humanitarian Assistance Report

The presentations will be followed by responses from a select number of key respondents representing key stakeholder groups. See the proposed list of respondents below.

Chair and Moderator: **Mr. Jeremy Konyndyk**, Director USAID/ OFDA

Main Presenters: **Mr. Stephen O'Brien**, United Nations Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
Ms. Charlotte Lattimer, Lead Author of the GHA Report 2016, and Senior Policy and Engagement Advisor, Development Initiatives

Key Respondents:

- ***H.E. Alya Al Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations in New York***
- ***Ms. Jessica Shannon, Partner/Principal, Global Governance, PriceWaterhouseCooper***
- ***Dr. Lynne Sherburne-Benz, Senior Regional Advisor, Africa Region, World Bank***
- ***Mr. Joshua Bennett, Executive Vice President, Show of Force***

Background Material

<http://www.unocha.org/stateofaid/>

<http://devinit.org/#!/GHA2016>

<https://fts.unocha.org/>

Contact

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