



ATTENDEES' BRIEFING PACK

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN POLICY FORUM 2020

A Case for Transformation? The Longer-term Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 | 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Thursday, December 10, 2020 | 9:15 am – 12:30 pm

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://pm1pro.zoom.us/j/92395689044>

Website: <https://www.unocha.org/2020-humanitarian-policy-forum>



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CONCEPT NOTE – GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN POLICY FORUM

A Case for Transformation? The Longer-term Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Thursday, December 10, 2020, 9:15 am – 12:30 pm

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://pm1pro.zoom.us/j/92395689044>

On **9-10 December 2020**, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will convene its ninth Global Humanitarian Policy Forum (GHPF). This year, for the second time, the GHPF will be co-hosted by the United Nations Foundation, bringing invaluable expertise in connecting people across industries and sectors to develop new ideas. Since 2012, the GHPF has convened members of the humanitarian community to anticipate future trends, launch new policy ideas and explore the practical challenges and opportunities of shifting policy to practice in crisis contexts. Over the past eight years, the GHPF has been at the forefront of shaping the international humanitarian community's policy agenda.

This year's GHPF aims to assess the longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on humanitarian needs and humanitarian aid. Inviting diverse viewpoints and expertise from a wide range of humanitarian, development, academic, and private sector practitioners and policy makers, the GHPF seeks to actively engage participants from around the world to identify common experiences, examples of programmatic and organizational change, and suggestions for systemic adjustments to further optimize the ways in which we work and collaborate.

The GHPF will address questions such as: Does the pandemic create opportunities for transformation in the way humanitarian aid is being delivered? Do remote work, financial reprioritization, and working with and in new partnerships have a lasting effect and trigger organizational change? Will vulnerability, fragility and need increase for years to come? Has the collective impact of this global crisis given rise to a heightened sense of global solidarity and collaboration?

For the first time, this year's GHPF will be held as a series of virtual events (via Zoom). Following a brief opening by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and the United Nations Foundation's Senior Vice-President to welcome participants and frame the GHPF's discussions, viewers are invited to interact with participants in a High-Level Panel and three thematic sessions.

A summary report on the GHPF's key strategic conclusions and recommendations will be posted on the event's [website](#) in January and shared with participants.



AGENDA – GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN POLICY FORUM

DAY 1 – 9 DECEMBER 2020

9:00AM-9:20AM WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS BY UNOCHA AND UN FOUNDATION

- **Mark Lowcock**, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNOCHA
- **Sofia Borges**, Senior Vice President and Head of the New York Office, UN Foundation

9:20AM-10:50AM Beyond Health: Political, Socio-Economic and Security Dimensions of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Moderator: **Femi Oke**, Journalist and Broadcaster

Panellists:

- **Frank Bousquet**, Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank
- **Nicole Clifton**, President, Social Impact and The UPS Foundation
- **Jan Egeland**, Secretary-General, Norwegian Refugee Council
- **Pape Gaye**, President & Chief Executive Officer, IntraHealth International
- **John Norris**, Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Insight, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

10:50AM-11:00AM Break

11:00AM-12:30PM Coalitions for Success: New Partnerships and Local Frontline Leadership

Moderator: **Sorcha O’Callaghan**, Director of Programme – Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

Panellists:

- **Christina Bennett**, Chief Executive Officer, Start Network
- **Anna Ekeledo**, Executive Director, AfriLabs
- **Butch Meily**, President, IdeaSpace and Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation
- **Ana Patricia Muñoz**, Executive Director, Grupo FARO
- **Patrick Saez**, Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development
- **(TBC) Dr. Georges Alain Etoundi Mballa**, Director, Disease Control, Epidemics and Pandemics, Ministry of Public Health, Cameroon



DAY 2 – 10 DECEMBER 2020

9:15AM-10:45AM Future Proofing: Organizational Readiness and Strategic Crisis Preparedness

Moderator: **Kirsten Gelsdorf**, Director of Global Humanitarian Policy, University of Virginia

Panellists:

- **Dominique Burgeon**, Director of Emergencies, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **Kim Eling**, Senior Expert, Cabinet of Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission
- **Pascale Meige**, Director Disasters Climate and Crises (Prevention, Response and Recovery), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- **David Nabarro**, Co-Director and Chair of Global Health, Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London
- **Salvatore Vicari**, Regional Humanitarian Affairs Advisor – Middle East, Médecins Sans Frontières

10:45AM-11:00AM Break

11:00AM-12:30PM Realizing the Digital Promise: Moving New and Emerging Technologies from Pilots to Practice

Moderator: **Andrew Schroeder**, Vice President of Research and Analysis, Direct Relief

Opening Remarks: **Quynh Tran**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UNOCHA

Panellists:

- **John Frank**, Vice President of UN Affairs, Microsoft
- **Dakota Gruener**, Executive Director, ID2020
- **Jason A. Lee**, Project Manager, Statistician, Data Analyst, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
- **Massimo Marelli**, Head of Data Protection Office, International Committee of the Red Cross
- **Ruchi Saxena**, Director, India Flying Labs
- **Ria Sen**, Disaster Risk Reduction Expert, UN World Food Programme



CONCEPT NOTE – High-level Panel

Beyond Health: Political, Socio-Economic, and Security Dimensions of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Wednesday, 9 December 2020 | 9:00 AM – 10:50 AM EST

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://pm1pro.zoom.us/j/92395689044>

Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic has confronted humanitarians with a new set of challenges. Flight suspensions, border closures, quarantine measures, and lockdowns have drastically impacted the ability of humanitarian actors to move across and within countries, causing delays, additional costs, and partial suspensions of humanitarian activities. Critical services such as treatments for other infectious and non-communicable diseases have been scaled back, and health access for vulnerable populations has plummeted. Lockdown measures, market collapses, divestments, and travel bans have resulted in an unprecedented global socio-economic downturn, pushing millions of additional people into extreme poverty and acute levels of food insecurity. At the same time, widespread attention to matters of inclusion, diversity, race and inequality have prompted discussions around structural racism and power imbalances across all areas of society, including within the humanitarian system.

Just as the pandemic has served as an exacerbator of pre-existing vulnerabilities around the world, exposing systemic and structural weaknesses, the crisis might serve as an accelerator of trends and adaptations in the humanitarian sector that have already begun or been identified as necessary. The focus is shifting to preparedness and anticipatory action, and increased collaboration with development partners, the private sector and local humanitarian actors. The pandemic has exposed an unprecedented collective vulnerability and increased the need for support of humanitarian aid across the world. Stretched resources and capacity, a lack of preparedness and readiness, digitalization and remote work, a need for more real-time and reliable information and communication services, and increasing concerns over diversity and inclusion, have prompted governments and institutions at all levels, the business sector, and local and international humanitarian organizations to review, adapt and transform their business models.

The world envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is less than ten years away, and the impacts of the pandemic threaten to reverse progress made to date. As the global health crisis continues to disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, it is intersecting with and compounding other global challenges, such as climate change. At the same time, evolving trends in geo-politics, macroeconomics, multilateralism, conflict, and urbanization continue to shape the landscape of humanitarian response. The compound impacts of the pandemic and related crises pose critical questions for humanitarian actors to consider moving forward.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the longer-term health, socio-economic, political, ethical and security implications of the pandemic and concurrent crises for the international humanitarian system?



- How is the pandemic intersecting with other global challenges, and changing the face of vulnerability of people in need?
- What does the COVID-19 crisis expose or help us understand about the international aid sector?
- In light of the events of 2020, what are some of the greatest barriers to effectively responding to humanitarian needs?
- How will the humanitarian system address inequalities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, in the spirit of building back better?

Format:

The session will begin with brief opening remarks welcoming participants to the GHPF and framing the GHPF's discussions. Panellists will then discuss the longer-term health, socio-economic, political, ethical and security challenges exposed or aggravated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and concurrent crises. They will identify possible actions and opportunities to further enhance the efficacy of humanitarian action, and regional and international cooperation more broadly. A Q&A session with participants will follow.

Panellists:

Femi Oke - Moderator

Journalist and Broadcaster

Femi Oke is an award-winning international journalist, broadcaster, professional moderator and co-founder of the diverse moderator's bureau "Moderate the Panel. Femi's reporting has been recognized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Communications Agency and InterAction. Since the 1980s, she has worked for BBC television and radio, Sky TV, myriad U.K. television networks, CNN and U.S. public radio. As a professional moderator, Femi has presided over world class events including European Development Days, NBA Africa Celebratory Luncheon for the U.S. National Basketball Association, and the historic Barbershop Conference at the United Nations Headquarters.

Mark Lowcock

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNOCHA

On 1 September 2017, Mark Lowcock succeeded Stephen O'Brien as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Mark brings to the position more than 30 years of experience leading and managing responses to humanitarian crises across the globe, as well as wider strategic leadership in the international development arena. Prior to assuming his current role, Mark was Permanent Secretary at the Department for International Development (DFID), a role he assumed in 2011. He began his career at DFID (formerly the Overseas Development Administration) in 1985, and served in a diverse range of roles — including overseas postings in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Kenya — in addition to holding leadership positions at headquarters. Born in 1962, Mark holds a bachelor's degree in Economics and History from Oxford University and a master's in Economics from the University of London. He is a chartered accountant.



Sofia Borges

Senior Vice President and Head of New York Office, United Nations Foundation

As the Senior Vice President & Head of New York Office, Sofia Borges serves as chief liaison with United Nations leadership and the diplomatic community, working to identify new opportunities for building and deepening partnerships with a range of stakeholders, as well as overseeing initiatives with the private sector and managing engagement with other organizations. Sofia also provides overall guidance and participates in the development of long-term strategy for the Foundation. Prior to joining the UN Foundation, Sofia held the position of Deputy Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly and served in the Cabinet of the President of the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly as Special Adviser on Strategic Engagement and Transparency. From 2002-2016, Sofia held various positions at the Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to the UN, including six years as Ambassador and Permanent Representative.

Franck Bousquet

Senior Director, Fragility, Conflict and Violence, World Bank

Franck Bousquet assumed this position on July 1, 2017. He led the development of the World Bank Group's first Strategy for Fragility, Conflict and Violence. He served as Director in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and as MENA's senior regional advisor. Prior to this, he held several roles in MENA focused on resilience to shocks and broader fragility challenges, including as Sector Manager of the Urban and Social Development Sectors and as Regional Coordinator for Disaster Risk Management (2011-2014). Before joining MENA, Franck worked for seven years across a range of sectors and fragile and conflict-affected states in Africa, including as program coordinator for Central and Western Africa in the Water and Urban Unit, and as acting sector leader for the Sustainable Development Department for the Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo. Prior to joining the Bank, Franck held roles in the public and private sectors focused on water utilities, transport, and finance and capital markets. He holds an MBA with a specialization in finance from Columbia Business School and a graduate diploma in engineering from the National Engineering School of Public Works in Lyon.

Nicole Clifton

President, Social Impact and The UPS Foundation

Nikki Clifton leads UPS's global philanthropy, social impact and community engagement efforts as part of UPS's new Corporate Affairs, Communications and Sustainability Team. She previously served as Vice President, Public Affairs, and led UPS's workforce policy, legislative advocacy and external affairs engagement with members of Congress and with states' attorneys general. She also leads the UPS Equity, Justice and Action Task Force, a cross-functional leadership team working to dismantle systemic racism where UPS is best positioned to drive change. Nikki began her UPS career in 2003 as Labor & Employment Counsel. Prior to joining UPS, she practiced labor and employment law at Delta Air Lines and Alston & Bird LLP. She was appointed to the Department of Transportation Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking, serves on the Advisory Board for the CARE Global Network Leaders, and served as a Board Member for the National Black Child Development Institute, among other organizations. She earned her bachelor's degree magna cum laude in communications from Howard University's Annenberg Honors Program and her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law.



Jan Egeland

Secretary-General, Norwegian Refugee Council

Jan Egeland assumed this position in August 2013, a role which oversees the work of the humanitarian organization in more than 30 countries affected by conflict and disaster. In 2015, he was appointed in a second role by former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, as Special Adviser to the UN Special Envoy for Syria. Prior to that, Jan was UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator from 2003 to 2006. In 2006, Time magazine named him one of the “100 people who shape our world.” Jan served as Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs from 2007 to 2011. He was the UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Colombia from 1999 to 2001. From 1992 to 1997, Jan served as State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has also been Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross and has held leading positions at Amnesty International. Jan has 30 years of experience in working with human rights, humanitarian crises and conflict resolution. He published 'A Billion Lives: An Eyewitness Report from the Frontlines of Humanity' in 2010.

Pape Gaye

President & Chief Executive Officer, IntraHealth International

Pape Gaye is a native of Senegal and a lifelong advocate for health workers, strong health systems, and access to health care for all. Under his leadership as president and CEO of IntraHealth International, the organization made human resources for health a crucial part of the worldwide conversation on global health. Pape drew on three decades of leadership in international health and development as he oversaw work in around 40 countries to strengthen their health workforces and health systems. During his watch, IntraHealth led two of the US government’s flagship human resources for health projects (the Capacity Project and CapacityPlus) and established official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). Pape has long advocated for a greater focus on the health workforce. In May 2016 at the World Health Assembly, the WHO and member states responded to such advocacy efforts with the first-ever global health workforce strategy, Workforce 2030. Pape is a frequent international speaker on issues related to capacity-building and the global health workforce.

John Norris

Deputy Director of Policy and Strategic Insight, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

John serves as Deputy Director for Policy and Strategic Insight with a focus on the emerging trends most likely to impact the foundation’s programs. John has served in a number of senior roles in government, international institutions, and non-profits. In 2014, John was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President’s Global Development Council, a body charged with advising the administration on effective development practices. John previously served as a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and the Executive Director of the Enough Project. He was also the chief of political affairs for the United Nations Mission in Nepal. Previously, John served as the Washington chief of staff for the International Crisis Group, and as the director of communications for U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott. He also worked as a speechwriter and field disaster expert at the U.S. Agency for International Development. John is the author of several books, including a biography of the late journalist Mary McGrory which was a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize.



CONCEPT NOTE – Interactive Discussion

Coalitions for Success: New Partnerships and Local Frontline Leadership

Wednesday, 9 December 2020 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM EST

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://pm1pro.zoom.us/j/92395689044>

Overview:

The COVID-19 crisis has given new urgency to the need for aid organizations and donors to work in close partnership with the private sector, local and national organizations, civil society, government actors and institutions, and scientific and research organizations to achieve not only quick and impartial but also adequate, lasting, and locally owned outcomes and solutions.

This renewed focus is driven in part by an increasingly competitive funding environment, lockdown measures, travel restrictions, and widespread attention to matters of racial inequality, inclusion, and diversity, which have reinvigorated discussions around a “decolonization” of the international aid sector. It is further prompted by the clear comparative advantage that local actors have displayed in the front-line response, the delivery of commodities and aid, and the contribution to longer-term recovery. At the same time, the private sector has been crucial in supporting the immediate health response, strengthening preparedness, response and recovery, and addressing critical socio-economic impacts. The lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic should encourage the private sector, governments, humanitarians, civil society and academia to seek new, more strategic, and balanced ways of collaborating. This includes organizing contributions in a more predictable manner; building new and strategically identifying and leveraging existing capacities; forging new or reshaping existing partnerships and arrangements; and agreeing on necessary modalities in advance to enable a more effective and sustainable responses to the needs of people affected by humanitarian crises in the future.

Guiding Questions:

- Will the pandemic serve as a turning point towards more systematic, predictable and sustained collaboration between aid agencies, local authorities and institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector actors? Are there new pathways and opportunities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
- Can risks and responsibilities, funding flows and capacities be shared and aligned in ways that support more collaborative responses and results?
- What are successful examples of such systematic cooperation between diverse actors that others could emulate and build upon?
- What are the obstacles faced by cross-sector partnerships in humanitarian action and how can they be overcome?
- What is the responsibility and role of local and national governments in supporting their own responders? How can donors incentivize greater collaboration with local partners? What is the role of the private sector, and what are the areas of its clear comparative advantage?



Format:

Interventions by the “ignite speakers” will kick off the discussion. Panellists will then discuss the opportunities and challenges of cross-sector partnerships and collaboration in humanitarian action as well as possible ways forward for building more strategic, systematic and sustainable partnerships across sectors at the international, regional and local levels. A Q&A session with participants will follow.

Panellists:

Sorcha O’Callaghan - Moderator

Director of Programme - Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Sorcha O’Callaghan is the Head of the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI where she leads research into humanitarian system reform, inclusion and gender, displacement and humanitarian financing. A specialist in displacement, civilian protection and humanitarian action in protracted crises, she has worked extensively in East Africa. Sorcha is a frequent author, with publications such as ‘Beyond the Pandemic: strengthening Somalia’s health system’ and ‘Covid-19: five lessons from Ebola’.

Christina Bennett

Chief Executive Officer, Start Network

Christina Bennett has been CEO of Start Network since September 2019. Previously, she was the Head of the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI, leading research into local humanitarian action and driving policy initiatives related to counterterrorism, humanitarian reform, refugee livelihoods and private finance. She was the author of ‘Time to Let go: Remaking Humanitarian Action for the Modern Era’. Christina has 20 years of experience in humanitarian policy and practice. Prior to joining ODI, Christina was the Chief of Policy Analysis and Innovation at OCHA. Christina is a frequent writer and speaker on conflict and humanitarian aid. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, Reuters, BBC World Service, TIME, The Economist Intelligence Unit, The New Humanitarian (formerly IRIN) and Devex.

Anna Ekeledo

Executive Director, AfriLabs

Anna Ekeledo is the Executive Director of AfriLabs, a network organization of over 158 Technology and Innovation Hubs across 45 African countries. She leads the organization to develop programs and build partnerships that support and work with these innovation hubs and other stakeholders to raise high potential entrepreneurs that will stimulate economic growth and social development in Africa. Her focus at Afrilabs aligns with its vision of an African continent characterized by open collaboration, African made solutions and jobs for all driven by technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Butch Meily

President, IdeaSpace and Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation

Butch Meily leads the organization as IdeaSpace president and is concurrently serving as the President of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), a disaster management organization composed of many of the largest corporations in the country. Under his leadership, PDRF has become a global model used by the UN as a showcase for local business disaster response



networks. He also heads QBO Innovation Hub which is a public private sector partnership supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, JP Morgan and IdeaSpace. He is president of Pacific Global One, which is PLDT's aviation arm. He has a wealth of experience in the private sector both in the Philippines and the United States and is deeply involved in corporate social responsibility programs. A graduate of Ateneo de Manila University, Butch has an M.A. in Journalism and Communications from the University of Florida. He was a recipient of the College of Journalism's Alumnus of Distinction award in 2000. He returned to UF in 2003 as the Freedom Forum Distinguished Visiting Professor.

Ana Patricia Muñoz

Executive Director, Grupo FARO

Ana Patricia Muñoz is the Executive Director of Grupo FARO, a non-partisan Ecuadorian research center that influences public policy and promotes practices for social transformation and innovation. Before joining Grupo FARO, Ana Patricia was an Assistant Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston where she served as Director of Research Community Development Department. Ana Patricia has written more than 18 research reports, book chapters and articles published in academic journals, and is frequently invited to speak at conferences and seminars. She holds a MPA from Brown University, a MS in Economics from the University of Montreal and a BS in Economics from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.

Patrick Saez

Senior Policy Fellow, Center for Global Development

Patrick's research focuses on the international response to humanitarian crises and reform of the international humanitarian system. Over the past decade he has advised the UK Government on a range of humanitarian policy issues, including protection of civilians and forced displacement, leadership in the humanitarian system, cash transfers in crises, and risk-based financing as well as DFID's engagement with key UN, Red Cross, and other non-governmental humanitarian organizations. He co-authored the UK's Strategy on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict and authored the latest UK Humanitarian Reform Policy. He was DFID's lead adviser on the Syria crisis from the onset of the crisis to 2015 and was responsible for DFID's £135m core humanitarian funding to the UN. Most recently he led DFID's initial response to the crisis in Venezuela and its impact on neighbouring countries. Patrick previously worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross where he headed the development of ICRC's policy on the protection of civilians and served as delegate, protection coordinator and head of office in Colombia, Kosovo and Indonesia. He had previously worked with humanitarian NGOs in the Balkans, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(TBC) Dr. Georges Alain Etoundi Mballa

Director, Disease Control, Epidemics and Pandemics, Ministry of Public Health, Cameroon

Dr. Georges Etoundi currently serves as the Director of Disease Control for the Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon and is the Chief of Emergency Services at the Central Hospital of Yaoundé. Dr. Etoundi received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Yaoundé and then spent five years at the General Hospital of Libourne staffing the pulmonology and critical care services. Subsequently, Dr. Etoundi spent seven years at the University of Bordeaux in France, receiving specialized training in infectious disease, pulmonology, and critical care.



CONCEPT NOTE – Interactive Discussion

Future Proofing: Organizational Readiness and Strategic Crisis Preparedness

Thursday, 10 December 2020 | 9:15 AM – 10:45 AM EST

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://pm1pro.zoom.us/j/92395689044>

Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly tested financial, political and societal capacities and response frameworks, as well as institutional readiness and general levels of preparedness of many member states, businesses, health and research institutions, communities, civil society, and international organizations. For humanitarians, the pandemic has underscored the need to work differently to anticipate and prepare for future shocks. Anticipation involves both predicting likely crises, scenarios and developments based on current and historical facts and experience; and adequately preparing to avert or minimize potential shocks, including through anticipatory financing.

The pandemic's long-term socio-economic impacts have reinforced the need to focus on *reducing* needs as opposed to merely *meeting* them, and to address fragility through scaled-up investment in social protection safety nets, preparedness and early action. The COVID-19 response has also reaffirmed the importance of information, transparency and early and effective communications; organizational readiness and digital infrastructure; surge capacities; stand-by partnerships; pooling of resources, capacities and investments; and key exemptions and good practices for travel and transport. Considering lessons from the COVID-19 response will allow the humanitarian sector to scale up anticipatory action and preparedness measures to act early, get ahead of outbreaks, and ultimately safeguard the livelihoods of those most vulnerable

Guiding Questions:

- What are the key lessons that we need to learn around organizational readiness and strategic crisis preparedness as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for similar global crises in the future?
- What are examples of good practice related to national preparedness and organizational readiness, and what gaps can be identified?
- What lessons have we learned about transparency, accessibility of information and effective communications during the pandemic response?
- What have been the successes and challenges of collaborating in areas such as financial assistance and/or health, medical and pharmaceutical research?



Format:

The intervention by the “ignite speaker” will kick off the discussion. Panellists will then discuss the successes and challenges in achieving national and organizational readiness and strategic crisis preparedness as well as key lessons learned from the COVID-19 response. A Q&A session with participants will follow.

Panellists:

Kirsten Gelsdorf - Moderator

Director of Global Humanitarian Policy, University of Virginia

Kirsten Gelsdorf is the Director of Global Humanitarian Policy at the University of Virginia's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. Her career includes long-term field postings and operational deployments to numerous emergencies including the international responses to Hurricane Mitch in Honduras, the Ethiopian Famine, the South African Regional Food Crisis, the Liberian War, the Tsunami in Indonesia, Hurricane Katrina, the Pakistan Earthquake, the Timor-Leste Security Crisis, the Global Food Crisis and the Haiti Earthquake. Kirsten most recently served as the Chief of the Policy Analysis and Innovation Section at OCHA. She also served as a humanitarian advisor to President Clinton in his role as the UN Special Envoy for Haiti and as a policy advisor to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the global food crisis in 2008.

Dominique Burgeon

Director of Emergencies, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Dominique Burgeon is the current Director of Emergencies for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. He has over 25 years of professional experience with FAO in various functions in the field and in headquarters. In July 2011, he was appointed as FAO Representative in Bangladesh, overseeing one of the largest country programmes of the organization putting in practice the concepts of disaster risk management for food and nutrition security. In 2012, he was appointed Director of FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Division. Mr. Burgeon also leads the FAO Corporate work on Increasing the resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods to threats and crises.

Kim Eling

Senior Expert, Cabinet of Janez Lenarčič, Commissioner for Crisis Management, European Commission

Kim Eling is a senior advisor to the European Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič. He was previously responsible for international and interinstitutional relations in the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and prior to this worked in the private offices of Christos Stylianides and Kristalina Georgieva as EU Commissioners for humanitarian aid. He has in the past been posted in the EU Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, as well as working on a range of external relations issues in the European Commission. Kim Eling has a bachelor's degree from Oxford University and a PhD in political science from the London School of Economics.



Pascale Meige

Director of Disasters Climate and Crises (Prevention, Response and Recovery), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Since August 2016, Pascale Meige has been overseeing the coordination, surge and support roles of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies for disasters and crises worldwide. Amongst the priorities taken forward by her department are the scaling up of cash transfers to respond to needs, the increase in support to vulnerable migrants, forecast-based financing, and climate-smart humanitarian action. Previously, Pascale spent 22 years with the ICRC, spending her first eleven years in the field. She moved to ICRC headquarters in 2005 to develop ICRC policy relating to gender equality in the workplace, and from 2008 held senior managerial positions in the department of operations, first as Head of Operations for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and then as Deputy Director of Operations. Pascale holds two Master's degrees in International Relations, from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Massachusetts) and the Graduate Institute of International Relations (Geneva).

David Nabarro

Co-Director and Chair of Global Health, Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London

David Nabarro was appointed to this post in 2019. He is also Strategic Director of the Swiss-based social enterprise, 4SD (Skills Systems and Synergies for Sustainable Development), established in 2017, training and mentoring leaders for sustainable development. In March 2020, David was appointed Special Envoy of WHO Director-General on COVID-19. He is also co-chair of the World Innovation Summit for Health Forum on Climate Change and Health. In October 2018, David was awarded the World Food Prize together with Lawrence Haddad for their leadership on nutrition. In 2015, he was appointed as chair of the expert group on the reform of WHO's work on outbreaks and emergencies. David was appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change from 2016 – 2017 as Under-Secretary-General, the Special Envoy for the West Africa Ebola Outbreak Response in 2014 and Coordinator of the Movement for Scaling Up Nutrition in 2011 as Assistant Secretary-General. In 2005, he was appointed as UN System Senior Coordinator for Avian and Pandemic Influenza and UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition from 2008 to 2014. Previously he served at WHO in Geneva as the Director of the WHO Department for Health Action in Crisis, Executive Director in the office of the Director-General and Director of WHO's Roll Back Malaria Department. A physician who studied at Oxford and London Universities, David holds a Masters' degree in reproductive endocrinology and public health.

Salvatore Vicari

Regional Humanitarian Affairs Advisor – Middle East, Médecins Sans Frontières



CONCEPT NOTE – Interactive Discussion

Realizing the Digital Promise: Moving New and Emerging Technologies from Pilots to Practice

Thursday, 10 December 2020 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 AM EST

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://pm1pro.zoom.us/j/92395689044>

Overview:

The **COVID-19 response** showcased both the potential and the risks of new and emerging technologies, while simultaneously accelerating their adoption and use. AI facilitated outbreak mapping, early warning, screening, diagnosis, and the development of treatments and vaccines. Biometrics, blockchain and digital cash enabled contactless access to aid. UAVs delivered medical supplies and testing samples; chatbots provided information and telehealth support; and 3D printers produced personal protective equipment. Concurrently, concerns mounted over data protection and privacy, cybersecurity, personal liberty, and misinformation. With countless activities moving to virtual environments overnight, COVID-19 also raised fundamental questions of technological preparedness and effectiveness, as well as digital inequality.

Humanitarian action may, in the future, increasingly involve the delivery of “digital aid packages”, ranging from connectivity to hardware, software and digital literacy trainings. More and more activities will be carried out online. But human contact cannot simply be replaced by technology. For humanitarian organizations, **presence remains key** for building trust and confidence with people affected by humanitarian crises, conducting initial needs assessments, and monitoring situations, particularly in low-connectivity and digital literacy environments.

At the same time, deploying technology in humanitarian settings poses a number of complex **challenges and risks**. These include difficulties in obtaining adequate data for meaningful analysis; the risk of widening the digital divide; low connectivity, access to basic technology and data literacy; lacking data protection and data responsibility; obstacles in public-private partnerships experienced on both sides; and insufficient regulations in this emerging field.

New and emerging technologies have the potential to support a **paradigm shift** from reaction to anticipation for an earlier, faster and more effective humanitarian response—but they must be responsible, sustainable and inclusive. Enablers for realizing the digital promise and moving from pilots to practice include:

1. **equality and localization** - empowering communities and bridging the digital divide
2. **people-centred design and leadership** - working with and for users
3. **data, capacity and skills** - ensuring the basics are in place
4. **data responsibility and the humanitarian principles** - ensuring technology “does no harm”
5. **collaboration and coordination** - forming lasting partnerships
6. **law and regulation** - taking an enabling, rights-based approach; and
7. **investment and scaling** - measuring impact targeting long-term solutions.



Guiding Questions:

- Is there a digital promise? If so, have lessons from COVID-19 gotten us closer to realizing this promise?
- How can we more systematically, safely and securely integrate technology into our work and ensure technology's effectiveness in improving humanitarian action?
- Will "digital aid packages" (including connectivity, hardware and software) become an integrated part of humanitarian aid programmes and deliveries in the future?
- What changes are necessary to ensure technological preparedness in the future?
- How can we achieve digital access and equality?
- To fulfil the digital promise and bridge the digital divide, what investments and partnerships are needed with the private sector and local actors?

Format:

The session will begin with a brief presentation on the preliminary findings of OCHA's forthcoming report on the opportunities and challenges of new and emerging technologies in humanitarian action. Subsequently, panellists will discuss the challenges and enablers for unlocking the potential of technology for the humanitarian sector through their experiences and lessons learned. A Q&A session with participants will follow.

Panellists:

Andrew Schroeder – Moderator

Vice President of Research and Analysis, Direct Relief

Dr. Andrew Schroeder leads Direct Relief's work in GIS mapping, epidemiological analysis and humanitarian informatics. He has worked in a consulting and advisory capacity for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Andrew is the co-founder, along with colleagues at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, of the Covid-19 Mobility Data Network, a global network of infectious disease experts and public health responders dedicated to real-time digital epidemiological analysis during the Covid-19 pandemic and future health emergencies. He is also the co-founder and Board President of the global non-profit WeRobotics.org. Andrew earned his Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Analysis from New York University and his Masters of Public Policy (MPP) and certification in Science, Technology and Public Policy (STPP) from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

John Frank

Vice President of UN Affairs, Microsoft

John Frank assumed this position on 1 March 2020. Previously, he was the Vice President for EU Government Affairs. He relocated from Brussels to establish Microsoft's new United Nations representation office in New York. John and his team will help deepen Microsoft's support for the UN's mission and work. This includes advancing global multi-stakeholder action on key technology, environmental, humanitarian, development, and security goals as well as helping to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). John has been with Microsoft for more than 17 years and has held a variety of leadership roles within the Legal and Government Affairs organization. He holds an



AB from the Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, and JD from Columbia Law School.

Dakota Gruener,
Executive Director, ID2020

Dakota Gruener is the Executive Director of ID2020, a global public-private partnership, which brings together technologists, advocates, implementers, and funders toward a common vision: good digital ID for all. Dakota launched ID2020 in 2016, following her work at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, where she served as an aide-de-camp to the CEO, Seth Berkley. A graduate of Brown University, with dual degrees in Biology and Political Science, she started her career as a management consultant with Oliver Wyman. Dakota was recognized by Forbes Magazine as part of the Forbes 30-Under-30 in 2019 and is a proud Californian.

Jason A. Lee

Biostatistician and Project Manager, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Jason Lee is a biostatistician and project manager at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL). Jason specializes in the development and implementation of novel statistical analysis approaches across the health care spectrum, including population health, precision medicine, and health care policy. Earlier this year, Jason and his team, in collaboration with OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data, developed the OCHA-Bucky model to predict COVID-19 in international settings and inform humanitarian operations.

Massimo Marelli

Head of Data Protection Office, International Committee of the Red Cross

Massimo Marelli is a member of the Brussels Privacy Hub Advisory Board and is the co-editor of the Brussels Privacy Hub/ICRC *Handbook on Data Protection in Humanitarian Action*. He is also a member of the Advisory Board and a Fellow of the European Centre on Privacy and Cybersecurity at the University of Maastricht. Before taking on this role at the ICRC headquarters in Geneva, Massimo worked as an ICRC Delegate in the field and as legal adviser at ICRC headquarters. Prior to joining the ICRC, Massimo worked as lawyer at the UK Office of Fair Trading, Referendaire at the EU General Court and as lawyer in private practice.

Ruchi Saxena

Director, India Flying Labs

Dr. Ruchi Saxena is a global health systems consultant who has extensively worked in the field of healthcare quality, safety, disaster risk reduction, information systems, remote health monitoring and helped various healthcare organizations, both private and non-profit in developing core systems, protocols, and processes. She is also the Director of Operations at Caerobotics, which is dedicated to build a Smart Healthcare for a Better Tomorrow. She is a Doctorate in Medicine, has done her MBA in Healthcare Services and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

Ria Sen

Disaster Risk Reduction Expert, United Nations World Food Programme

Ria Sen is a London School of Economics alumna, and serves as Disaster Risk Reduction Expert at the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) based in Rome, Italy. She has worked with both the Programme and Policy, and Technology, Divisions of WFP. Her functions centre on enhancing readiness and capacity of national governments to prepare for disasters. In the tech arena, she is



currently one of the community of practice experts for the Digital Public Goods Alliance, linked to the Secretary-General's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation. Most recently, she has served with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, evaluating regional progress in global development frameworks. Her tenure with the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Office included acting as an innovation focal point, for driving forward the Pacific's only South-South cooperation initiative on e-governance. Ria was also formerly engaged with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to deliver high-level trainings and develop technical materials on ICT and disaster risk reduction. Ria began her career with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation in Brussels. In the academic arena, Ria has delivered guest lectures in the UK and Ireland on topics including artificial intelligence and tech applications for disaster and climate risk management. In an advisory capacity, she is a Global Panelist for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) *Tech Review* publication, and Advisor at the *Harvard Business Review*. In free time, she advocates for marine conservation and "tech4DRR".