



ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT
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2018 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Synthesis

This is a synthesis of the 2018 Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) developed by the Policy Branch of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). It is not a record of the proceedings. Side-event summaries were provided by the respective side-event organizers and subsequently edited for consistency.

The Segment was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jerry M. Matijla, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC. The organization of the Segment included engagement from Member States; relevant departments of the UN Secretariat; humanitarian organizations, including UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations and members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee; civil society organizations; private sector; academic institutions; and affected people. We thank all for their contributions to the ECOSOC HAS and this synthesis.

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1. SUMMARY

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) took place from 19 to 21 June 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York, under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Jerry M. Matijla, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC.

The Segment was preceded by the ECOSOC joint informal event on the transition from relief to development titled “Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in crisis contexts”, which was co-chaired by the Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Marc Pecsteen, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, and H.E. Ambassador Jerry M. Matijla, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations. The three-hour panel discussion focused on the linkages between humanitarian and development activities, and the importance of promoting resilience through investments in inclusive and sustainable development.

Under the theme ‘Restoring Humanity, Respecting Human Dignity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability’, this year’s HAS included three high-level panels and 18 side-events.

The high-level panels focused on the following key issues:

- The high-level panel on “Addressing the impact of armed conflict on children – strengthening the response to meet children’s needs” moderated by the Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Mark Lowcock, focused on the immediate and long lasting impacts of conflict and violence on children. Example of such impact include displacement, disruption of education and lack of access to food and nutrition, which translates into lack of protection and assistance for children affected by armed conflict. The discussion also highlighted that it is critical to engage with all parties to armed conflict to enhance their compliance with international law.
- Discussions at the high-level panel on “Addressing the challenges, risks and impacts of extreme weather events and climate change on the most vulnerable” moderated by the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Ursula Mueller, included experiences from national and regional disaster management agencies and explored how anticipatory financial approaches may contribute to strengthening early humanitarian action to mitigate humanitarian need and suffering in the context of disasters. The panel stressed that humanitarian development, disaster risk reduction and climate actors need to work more closely together for comprehensive solutions to the complex challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events.
- The high-level panel on “Strengthening local capabilities for sustainable outcomes and local resilience – contribution of humanitarian action” moderated by the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Ursula Mueller, reaffirmed the understanding that international engagement must reinforce and not replace national and local systems and leadership. The panel also stressed the importance of partnerships with local responders before crises strike and the role of funding to strengthen local leadership, preparedness and longer-term resilience. The

discussion also focused on the need to continue to build capacity of local organizations with investments in the short, medium and long term.

The Segment was enriched by eighteen side-events organized by Member States and humanitarian partners, which reflected many of the key themes of the Secretary-General's report on Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations. Side-events included topics such as humanitarian financing; localization; women and girls in the context of crisis; advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action; displacement and access.

The Segment concluded with the adoption of a consensus resolution on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/RES/2018/L.14). Co-facilitated by Zambia and Switzerland, the 2018 ECOSOC resolution will feed into the humanitarian omnibus resolution during the 73rd session of the General Assembly.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ACTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance. The report is also submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 72/133 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/14. The period covered by the report is January to December 2017.

The report provides an overview of major humanitarian trends, challenges and measures taken to improve humanitarian coordination and response on issues such as famine and the risk of famine, severe food insecurity, climate-related shocks, international humanitarian law and human rights law, forced displacement, humanitarian financing and humanitarian action in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitment to leave no one behind.

Humanitarian needs once again reached a new high last year with 135.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by the end of 2017. Conflict continued to be a major driver of need and, in too many armed conflicts today, parties continue to flout the fundamental rules of IHL with devastating impact. The number of people forcibly displaced by conflict and violence reached a record 65.6 million by the end of 2016, of whom 40.3 million were internally displaced. Extreme weather events – exacerbated by climate change –, floods, drought and other disasters destroyed lives and livelihoods and contributed to displacement across the world.

The report calls for an intensified global effort to enhance the protection of civilians and other protected persons in armed conflict, including by continuing to find practical ways to address the behavior of combatants in conflict and end impunity. On humanitarian access, the report states that the politicization of humanitarian access in several contexts adversely impacts efforts to protect and assist those in need, and calls on all parties to adhere to their obligations. The report also highlights that warfare is increasingly being fought in urban areas and emphasizes that civilian harm can be significantly reduced by avoiding the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas and adopting strong policies and practices. Additionally, in 2017, humanitarian workers were attacked, harassed, intimidated and arbitrarily detained. Enhancing their safety is critical. To this end, the report calls for the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations prepared in response to Security Council Resolution 2286. Finally, the report also describes the chilling effect that some counter-terrorism measures are having on the delivery of principled humanitarian action.

The report emphasizes the responsibility of the UN and humanitarian actors to put protection at the center of humanitarian action at all stages. The critical importance of child protection is also highlighted, with the report calling for scaled-up investments in essential child protection services and local coordination mechanisms. The work being done to address gender-based violence in emergencies is also described.

The report details some of the work being done by the IASC to strengthen their response to internal displacement. Efforts include encouraging governments, humanitarian and development partners and donors to work more closely together to reduce vulnerabilities and foster durable solutions for IDPs and host communities in protracted situations. The report also discusses the ongoing application of the comprehensive

refugee response framework (CRRF). Finally, the report highlights ongoing efforts to develop a Global Compact on Refugees and a Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The report stresses that closer humanitarian and development collaboration is needed to address the multidimensional and complex nature of major crises. It is important that humanitarian assistance is provided in a way that contributes towards better development outcomes, while development action must focus more on reducing risk and vulnerabilities. This will require working towards collective outcomes from the outset, recognizing the value of planning and programming over multi-year horizons, and promoting close collaboration with government authorities, civil society or the private sector while fully respecting principled humanitarian action. The Secretary-General has established the Joint Steering Committee which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and brings together Principals of UN entities and departments and the World Bank to resolve operational, institutional and systemic barriers, and provide strategic advice, support and solutions including to Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators.

The report also details the response of the UN, humanitarian and development actors to famine in parts of Unity State and South Sudan, and to the risk of famine in north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen in 2017. The report describes the causes of severe food insecurity in the world, and calls for respect for international humanitarian law, as well as an increased investment in agriculture and livelihoods to address some of these causes.

Additionally, the report elaborates on some of the concrete measures undertaken in 2017 by the UN and the humanitarian system to improve the delivery of humanitarian aid, including:

- The increased use of coordinated needs assessments and joint analysis, the scaling up of cash-based transfers, and increased support for risk-informed and shock-response social protection systems;
- Efforts around disaster risk reduction and preparedness at the local, national and regional level, as well as efforts to improve the collection, sharing and analysis of data, including through the launch of the Centre for Humanitarian Data in The Hague in December 2017;
- The work being done to empower women and girls in humanitarian action and to ensure that the unique needs of women, men, boys and girls are considered when both planning and delivering humanitarian response efforts. The report also emphasizes the critical importance of the provision of sexual and reproductive health in emergencies; and
- CERF and Country-Based Pooled Funds, with the report emphasizing the importance of continued support for and contributions to these funds. It also discusses advances in humanitarian financing, including the use of forecast-based financing, risk insurance, and other innovative financing models, and the work of the World Bank through the replenishment of the 18th International Development Association (IDA).

3. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL EVENT TO DISCUSS TRANSITION FROM RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT: “ADVANCING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CRISIS CONTEXTS”

19 June, ECOSOC Chamber, New York

The ECOSOC joint informal event of the operational and humanitarian affairs segments on the transition from relief to development titled “Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in crisis contexts” took place on 19 June. The three-hour panel discussion centered on the linkages between humanitarian and development activities, and the importance of promoting resilience through investments in inclusive and sustainable development. The event showcased examples development and humanitarian actors, working together, in accordance with their mandates, towards collective outcomes with the aim of reducing need, vulnerability and risk over multiple years. This cooperation was based on a shared understanding of the context and each actor’s operational strengths. The event also discussed how efforts to respond to and prevent crisis require inclusive solutions, in support of the 2030 Agenda in crisis contexts, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles. In the context of Somalia, the event discussed innovative approaches to reducing risk, vulnerability and needs. The findings of the UN-World Bank ‘Pathways for Peace’ study were also considered.

The panel was co-chaired by the Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve (Belgium), who was represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium, H.E. Jeroen Cooreman, and H.E. Jerry Matthews Matjila (South Africa). It was moderated by Ms. Kanni Wignaraja, the Director of the UN Development Operations Coordination Office. The panelists included: H.E. Gamal Mohamed Hassan, Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic Development of Somalia, who participated via VTC; Mr. Peter de Clercq, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, where he is also the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator; Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Director of the Center on International Cooperation of New York University; and Mr. Corey Pattison, from the World Bank.

During the panel discussion, positive examples were cited of how the UN system is working together in Somalia to have greater impact. This work is exemplified by the coherence between the Humanitarian Response Plan and the Resilience Framework and how they contribute to Somalia’s SDG-compliant National Development Programme. Panelists also discussed how the New Way of Working is positively changing practices on the ground. The importance of national development planning efforts and supporting national systems were also emphasized. Key findings of the UN-World Bank “Pathways for Peace” study were outlined. These call for a re-thinking of how development should be approached in contexts of fragility and conflict. A business case for investing in prevention was described, and opportunities for targeted development assistance to help prevent crises and sustain peace were outlined.

4. Official Programme

4.1. OPENING SESSION

19 June, ECOSOC Chamber, New York

H.E. Ambassador Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations in New York and Vice-President of ECOSOC, provided an overview of the schedule of the ECOSOC HAS and highlighted the themes of the three high-level panels and the side events. He noted that during the past years there has been an increase in the complexity and duration of humanitarian crises, which requires us to work together to find solutions and end humanitarian need. As we commemorate President Nelson Mandela's centenary this year, Ambassador Matjila recalled the importance of human dignity in humanitarian action. Humanitarian partners deliver assistance to some of the most vulnerable people on this planet – uprooted, displaced, and in need of assistance – not only to save their lives but also to empower them to live their lives with dignity.

Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), noted that over the past year, natural disasters affected more than 96 million people and conflicts displaced millions across the world. The humanitarian system is under strain and only \$8 billion of the needed \$25 billion has been received to date. Partnerships and collaboration must be strengthened. The 2030 Agenda recognized that humanitarian crisis threatened to reverse recent gains. Mr. Lowcock said that issues such as conflict, protracted food crises and the growing number of forcibly displaced people must be addressed. In addition, he stressed that international humanitarian law must be upheld, emphasizing the need for parties to conflict to protect rather than target civilians. Food security must also be improved and lasting solutions must be found to resolve the current massive levels of displacement of people worldwide. He further emphasized that early action and efficient financing mechanisms would facilitate effective response initiatives. Moreover, partnerships among stakeholders would strengthen those efforts. Noting several current initiatives, Mr. Lowcock stated that progress has been made to reduce vulnerability and need in countries such as Somalia. In line with the Secretary-General's strategy on eliminating sexual exploitation and abuse, efforts are also focused on ensuring that all those in need feel safe requesting and receiving assistance.

4.2. GENERAL DISCUSSION

19 and 21 June, ECOSOC Chamber, New York

During the General Discussion, Member States and other stakeholders held a general discussion on the HAS theme of 'Restoring Humanity, Respecting Human Dignity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability'.

Key issues raised during the General Discussion include:

- The importance of increased and predictable humanitarian financing, including multi-year funding, a wider resource base and anticipatory financing mechanisms to support effective and timely humanitarian assistance.
- Improved coherence and cooperation in the operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus, while respecting respective mandates and priorities.
- The importance of addressing challenges related to extreme weather events and climate change, in particular the humanitarian impacts of droughts, floods and hurricanes.
- The need to empower women and girls in humanitarian action, ensure the protection of women and children during crisis, and integrate a gender perspective in all humanitarian action.
- Calls for greater compliance and strengthened respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law and accountability for violations.
- Several delegations stated the importance of humanitarian assistance remaining neutral and impartial and in line with General Assembly resolution 46/182.
- Finding durable solutions to forced displacement was highlighted as a main challenge.

4.3. CLOSING SESSION

21 June, ECOSOC Chamber, New York

In his closing statement, Mr. Lowcock noted that the failure to protect civilians caught in conflict has resulted in incalculable suffering. Natural disasters are affecting more than 100 million people every year. Tens of millions of people do not have enough food to eat. He added that not only are needs high, but humanitarian workers are being attacked and harassed when trying to carry out their work. He also stressed that safe, rapid and unimpeded access is being widely denied, and noted that crisis heightens risks to women and girls in particular.

Referring to the three high-level panels, Mr. Lowcock emphasized the need to prioritize both education and effective engagement with all parties to armed conflict in order to enhance their compliance with IHL, and in turn address the challenges facing affected children. Regarding the panel on challenges, risks and impacts of extreme weather events and climate change, he stressed the need for enhanced coordination, collaboration and partnerships at all levels, as well as the need for a more anticipatory approach, backed by predictable, forecast-based financing, including during food crises. On the issue of strengthening local capacity discussed during the third panel, Mr. Lowcock added that international engagement should reinforce and not replace national and local systems.

Ambassador Matijila said that several themes had emerged during the segment's discussions, including that millions of children have been forcibly uprooted from their homes and are threatened daily with violence and exploitation. Millions are undernourished or face severe food insecurity and famine. He highlighted that discussions during the HAS underscored that the protection needs of children are not being sufficiently addressed and he urged the international community to remain smart about the types of responses it gears towards children. He also called for additional investment in quality education. Ambassador Matijila emphasized that better solutions are needed to counter the growing impact of disaster and climate-related humanitarian crises, since natural hazards regularly affect more than 100 million people each year. To better prepare for disasters, a shift from managing to mitigating and managing risk is essential. Ambassador Matijila urged strengthening local capacities and resilience, and stressed the vital role of local communities in humanitarian responses. He also highlighted that best practices from emergency response in urban areas have demonstrated how working with local authorities to develop local solutions improves aid delivery.

4.4. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: “ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON CHILDREN - STRENGTHENING THE RESPONSE TO MEET CHILDREN’S NEEDS”

20 June, ECOSOC Chamber, New York

Chair: H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator: Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panelists:

- Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF
- Ms. Yasmine Sherif, Director, Education Cannot Wait
- Mr. Robert Mardini, Director for the Near and Middle East, International Committee of the Red Cross
- Ms. Mari Malek, South Sudanese Refugee and Founder of Stand for Education

Mr. Mark Lowcock opened the discussion by referring to the impact of conflict on children. Examples include lack of protection, recruitment into armed forces or armed groups, attacks on schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access, abduction and sexual violence. Data published by UNICEF indicates that as of 2016, some 28 million children, or 1 in 80, have been forcibly displaced. This includes 12 million child refugees and child asylum seekers, and 16 million children living in internal displacement due to conflict and violence. Bleak as the situation is, there are some reasons to hope, including action plans signed by armed groups and the UN to end recruitment and use of child soldiers. It is important to put in place national policy frameworks to protect civilians, carry out heightened advocacy and engage in concerted efforts to ensure accountability for serious violations.

Ms. Malek (South Sudanese Refugee and Founder of Stand for Education) recounted her personal experience growing up during the second civil war in Sudan. She fled with part of her family to Egypt where they were refugees for several years before they were eventually granted asylum in the United States. She emphasized the need to focus on girls' education, especially in the midst of a crisis, as such situations often disproportionately impact upon the education of women and girls in particular. She discussed the work of her foundation, which includes the reopening of abandoned schools and the establishment of boarding schools that provide a safe space for girls to learn. She urged that while children are often seen as vulnerable and fragile, they are also often very aware of what is happening around them and of their own needs. Investing in education and listening to children's voices is crucial to ensure that children affected by conflict can have a future.

Ms. Fore (UNICEF) noted that over the past decade, the number of children living amid conflict has grown by 74 per cent. Millions have become refugees or internally displaced. Their needs are growing, and they face a myriad of vulnerabilities, including the possibility of becoming frontline targets. In the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, violence has forced 850,000 children from their homes, while 200 health centers and 400 schools have come under attack. In Yemen, 1.8 million children face acute malnutrition and 2.0 million are not in school. The global community cannot allow such situations to continue, she said, calling for a halt to conflict and zero tolerance towards the targeting of children. She also emphasized that UNICEF

and its partners are ready and able to provide humanitarian support, but all parties to conflict and their allies must grant full and unconditional access.

Mr. Mardini (ICRC) noted that half of the world's refugees are children and lamented the huge gap between international humanitarian law obligation and the reality on the ground. He explained that education is among the least resilient public services when conflict breaks out, with students and teachers often becoming frequent casualties of war. Under international humanitarian law, schools are presumed to be civilian sites, but become legitimate targets when occupied by armed forces or armed groups. Schools are also often being used to house internally displaced persons. ICRC, when present on the ground, attempts to convince parties to conflict not to use schools, hospitals or other infrastructure for military purposes. Unfortunately, the list of protection concerns is extremely long, including the unlawful recruitment of children; sexual violence; imprisonment and subsequently being forced witnesses to and participants in atrocities. Limited access to food, water and shelter affect children disproportionately, as seen in Yemen and Syria as well as during the conflict in Iraq. He noted the active role of ICRC in reestablishing family links.

Ms. Sherif (Education Cannot Wait) said that the average humanitarian appeal today lasts seven years. By comparison, a child's school cycle should be 12 years. Children in conflict situations are thus losing the right to a quality education. Moreover, only 39 per cent of refugee children are in primary school. Every armed conflict, without exception, is a protection crisis, marked by violations of international humanitarian law, human rights law — including the Convention on the Rights of the Child — and, increasingly, refugee law. Impunity has intensified despite efforts to put into place an international law enforcement structure, including the utilization of the International Criminal Court. Focusing on girls, she said those living amid conflict are 90 per cent less likely to get a quality education. Another challenge is that only 3 to 4 per cent of humanitarian funding goes to education.

The overall discussion highlighted the vulnerabilities and risks that children face in situations of armed conflict and reinforced the notion that the protection of children in conflict must be a priority for the international community. Immediate and longer lasting impacts of conflict and violence on children include displacement, disruption of education and lack of access to food and nutrition, which translates into a lack of assistance and protection. The panel also stressed that parties to conflict, Member States and humanitarian actors should ensure respect for international humanitarian law and enhance the protection of children.

For his part, Ambassador Matijila noted that, as a former refugee himself, Ms. Makek's story resonated strongly. He added that during those years, he became a guerrilla fighter and was instructed to never target schools and hospitals and to respect the Red Cross emblem. He added that refugees may be tomorrow's leaders and that children crossing borders should be given some form of belonging, a sense of dignity, and proper recognition.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Lowcock stressed prevention as an overriding theme for the work of the UN. He approved the session's focus on good existing practices and past lessons that can inform future action, and thus improve the lives of the millions of children embroiled in conflict.

4.5. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: “ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES, RISKS AND IMPACTS OF EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE MOST VULNERABLE”

20 June, ECOSOC Chamber, New York

Chair: H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator: Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panelists:

- Ms. Lisa Goddard, Director, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University
- Mr. Ronald Jackson, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (VTC)
- H.E. Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the UN
- Mr. Mohamed Béavogui, Director-General, African Risk Capacity
- Mr. Ibrahim Lumumba Idi-Issa, Deputy Executive Secretary, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
- Ms. Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Fiji covering ten Pacific Small Island Developing States (VTC)

In her introductory remarks, Ms. Mueller noted that 2017 was one of the three warmest years on record, and the warmest without the presence of an El Niño event. During 2017, drought and other climate-related events triggered food crises in 23 countries, with over 39 million food-insecure people requiring urgent assistance, and almost 19 million people newly displaced by natural disasters in 135 countries and territories. The El Niño episode of 2015/2016 was one of the strongest on record and prompted 23 countries in East Africa, Southern Africa, Central America, the Caribbean and the Asia Pacific to seek international humanitarian assistance for a total of more than 60 million people. However, the current appeals-driven humanitarian funding architecture does not incentivize early action. Recognizing this, the Central Emergency Response Fund is exploring ways to apply more anticipatory, data-driven models of funding. Additionally, the Under-Secretary-General has proposed a series of shifts in humanitarian financing to create a more anticipatory, accountable funding model.

Ms. Lisa Goddard (Columbia University) noted that climate variability is a phenomenon with which humanity has always lived. Today, the dominant trend is temperature change, which is beginning to impact upon other phenomena, such as heat stress and the intensity of storms. Those same trends will continue to be seen in the next two decades and beyond. Spotlighting the phenomenon of decadal scale variability, which is being studied in the Sahel region, she said the world is also changing in other ways that are putting people and resources in harm's way and placing more pressure on water and other basic service systems. These phenomena will necessitate more humanitarian assistance in some cases. Citing unprecedented El Niño rainfall during Kenya's 2015/2016 rainy season, Ms. Goddard said officials there had struggled with preparedness, and that this should be improved going forward. “El Niño is your opportunity to act,” she noted.

H.E. Satyendra Prasad (Permanent Representative of Fiji) said that Fiji and many other Pacific islands are living with greater uncertainty and variability in their weather patterns. Droughts, once seen only in June or July,

are now also occurring at other times of the year. Today's unpredictability is financially difficult and politically challenging, since it is hard to take resources away from other initiatives to prepare for potential weather patterns. When extreme weather events hit, as they inevitably do, developing countries can also suffer setbacks in their sustainable development progress. Finding ways to take some of the pressure off governments will be a crucial element of preparedness going forward. H.E. Prasad also called on governments, donors and international organizations to avoid working in their traditional silos.

Mr. Ronald Jackson (CDEMA) shared some lessons learned from the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season. He explained how the nature of last year's storms had laid bare the vulnerability and underlying risk drivers that had so far gone unaddressed in Latin American and Caribbean regions. The region's response is now focused on institutional strengthening, using science for informed decision making, examining the needs of key sectors of society and developing early warning systems. The storms also exposed the need for enhanced national responses, the importance of standardized building codes and their enforcement and the need to engage in perpetual readiness. Additionally, the 2017 storm season exposed huge gaps in preparedness financing — bearing in mind the high debt levels borne by many Caribbean countries — and demonstrated the need for those States to diversify their economies. Countries of the region are now moving towards a paradigm of smarter investment, better climate change mitigation, reductions in national debt, better leadership and more appropriate development practices in general.

Mr. Mohamed Béavogui (African Risk Capacity) recalled the 2012 establishment of “African Risk Capacity” — a specialized agency of the African Union created to address significant climate uncertainty more collaboratively and effectively. Meanwhile, Germany and the United Kingdom provided zero interest loans to an insurance company that helped to transfer the cost of risk away from African countries. Currently, 17 States had signed memoranda of understanding with the African Risk Capacity, and eight countries had purchased insurance plans with about \$400 million underwritten to date. Following that restructuring of risk, weather events in four countries result in payouts. Describing various political and budgetary sensitivities, he noted that insurance “is not a panacea” and should be considered along with social protection systems and other tools. In the current season, efforts are already underway to address potential weather events related to excessive rainfall, and the African Risk Capacity is also launching an outbreaks and epidemics unit to address future challenges. Béavogui urged that a strong multidisciplinary network and committed partnerships will be critical to its success.

Mr. Ibrahim Lumumba Idi-Issa (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) stated that the mandate of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel is to combat food insecurity and desertification while seeking a new ecological balance in the region. He highlighted the cross-border nature of its work, describing efforts to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards and other extreme weather phenomenon and to prepare communities across the Sahel to respond to them. One initiative, piloted by his organization with support from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), worked to develop national resilience and capacity. In addition, a dialogue platform has been created to help communities interact on their specific sustainability and preparedness practices. Efforts are also under way to preserve the Sahel's limited water resources due to the increasing unpredictability of its rainy season. Additionally, the committee is helping communities to adopt water management techniques which allow them to make use of limited water reserves throughout the longer dry season. Mr. Idi-Issa also outlined similar projects related to the prevention of food crises that involved weather forecasting and capacity building.

Ms. Osnat Lubrani (UN RC and UNDP Resident Representative Fiji) said that her daily work is tied to the humanitarian responses of countries in the Pacific region. Natural hazards are particularly common, and greatly affect Pacific small island developing States. Citing one example, Ms. Lubrani said that a cyclone had recently wiped out an estimated 38 per cent of Tonga's total GDP. Addressing risk and building stronger partnerships for preparedness are therefore major aspects of her development work, which is also linked to United Nations humanitarian responses in the region. While international support is used when necessary, humanitarian responses are usually led by Governments in the region and responses are becoming better tailored to local contexts. Noting that Governments continue to struggle following the end of humanitarian responses, Ms. Lubrani underlined the importance of financing for reconstruction as well as the adequate capacity and expedited administrative processes needed to utilize that financing.

During the discussion, effective disaster preparedness and timely early action based on early warning were highlighted as a way to save lives, livelihoods, time and money. It was stressed that the humanitarian system needs to establish partnerships and coherent approaches with development and climate actors. Working together, the global community can reduce climate risk, and mitigate the impact of disasters. Acknowledging the gaps, challenges and shortcomings in the current system is the first step towards concrete solutions. Local, national and regional capacities and leadership, supported by international organizations and other partners, play a key role in strengthening resilience to disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. Panelists noted the importance of exploring ways to bring to scale forecast-based financing, disaster risk insurance and other forms of innovative financing and complementing them with other financing instruments.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Mueller noted that humanitarian, development, disaster risk reduction and climate actors need to work more closely together and pool their tools, expertise and resources for comprehensive approaches and solutions to the complex challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events. It is important to ensure that early warning translates into early action backed by predictable and timely financing. Disaster risk reduction should be an integral part of sustainable development to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

4.6. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: “STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPABILITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES AND LOCAL RESILIENCE”

21 June, ECOSOC Chamber, New York

Chair: H.E. Mr. Jerry Matthews Matjila, Permanent Representative of South Africa and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator: Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panelists:

- Dr. Nilab Mobarez, Secretary General of the Afghan Red Crescent
- Ms. Monique Pariat, Director General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission
- Ms. Dineo Mathlako, Head of Operations, Department for International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa
- Ms. Morika Hunter, Chair, Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council

Ms. Mueller opened the discussion by noting that the 'localization' agenda, which calls for national and local capacity to be reinforced and not replaced, has been steadily gaining momentum over the last decade. This momentum accelerated when over 400 commitments on localization were made by stakeholders at the World Humanitarian Summit. Today, there are positive signs that local partners are increasingly being recognized, engaged, financed and empowered in humanitarian response and that more international partners are shifting away from the traditional direct implementation model toward a more collaborative approach. Funding to national and local actors is also increasing, with many international partners, including donors, improving their ability to track funding to local partners and make data transparent and accountable. However, progress is still too often centered around the current model of national and local partners fitting in with international response and coordination structures, rather than international efforts complementing existing structures and capacities.

Dr. Nilab Mobarez (IFRC) said that the effectiveness of the Afghan Red Crescent depends upon its local roots and impartiality — a challenge in Afghanistan where there are more than 20 non-State armed groups. Through its local networks, the Afghan Red Crescent negotiates with all actors with the aim of alleviating human suffering, regardless of location. Its volunteers recovered battlefield casualties, a third of which came from Government forces. The Afghan Red Crescent has also carried out polio vaccination campaigns and deployed 40 mobile clinics. Aware of its shortcomings and strengths, it did not hesitate to turn to external partners and donors, including receiving \$5 million over five years from the Government of India as well as Islamic funding. Despite 40 years of conflict, Afghans are eager to show their country in a different light, for example through a cricket team ranked in the world's top 10.

Ms. Monique Pariat (European Commission) describing localization as a collective process, emphasized the importance of dialogue with stakeholders and of addressing issues of trust and transparency to have a clear view of how funding is being used, given the difficulty of working with so many local-level groups. Strengthening international structures, such as IFRC, is also critical. She cited the response to Hurricane Matthew in Haiti as an example of pre- and post-disaster preparedness and a participatory approach stemming from years of international support. To meet donor requirements while diversifying funding sources,

it is necessary to review the current transactional nature of the humanitarian system and find long-term solutions, particularly in the areas of water, building resilience and absorbing shocks. Donors should also better integrate local needs into their planning.

Ms. Dineo Mathlako (Department for International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa) referred to the African Renaissance Fund, a development cooperation fund of the South African Government established in 2001. In the framework of the Fund, humanitarian assistance is part of a comprehensive effort to promote democracy, good governance, socioeconomic development, humanitarian resources and post-conflict recovery. Projects led by the African Renaissance Fund have been completed in Lesotho and Swaziland, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), to help women and children following a food crisis in 2012 and an El Niño episode in 2016. Small local South African farmers received training in their communities to help neighboring countries, while small businesses in disadvantaged communities were selected to cultivate maize at WFP quality standards. It was through real partnerships that South Africa could help affected populations in the beneficiary countries, said Ms. Mathlako, whose department worked with the Red Crescent in Western Sahara and with faith-based groups in South Sudan.

Ms. Morika Hunter (Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council) said that the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council has become a resilience network for the whole Pacific region. It was developed by the private sector and Fijian Government in 2016 after Cyclone Winston ravaged the archipelago nation. Support from UNDP and OCHA have enabled it to develop a platform to move forward together, anticipate disasters and map capabilities through a unified approach. She explained that the Business Disaster Resilience Council included companies that are vulnerable links in multinational supply chains while also playing vital roles in their communities. The Council includes insurance companies and commercial banks, and has worked in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development and regional telecommunications providers. The Council's work extended to Tonga, Vanuatu and Samoa, and is helping businesses understand local traditions and values while building trust with communities.

The discussion reaffirmed the understanding that international engagement must reinforce and not replace national and local systems and leadership. International support should be tailored to context; be based on an understanding of existing national and local capacity, gaps and capacity building needs; and be guided by comparative advantage and complementarity with national and local efforts. Essentially, we need to understand respective roles and expectations. The importance of both partnerships with local responders before crises strike, and of better funding practices to strengthen local leadership, were also highlighted.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Mueller stated that international efforts should continue to find ways to better link up with existing national and local coordination and response as well as regional level capacity and contributions. It is important to continue strengthening the capacity of local actors with a mix of investments over the short, medium and longer term, be it through surge deployments in support of national coordination and preparedness planning in advance of tropical storm seasons; empowerment of civil society organizations and vulnerable people; provision of training, emergency drills and simulation exercises; establishment of partnerships; or building national disaster management institutions and the institutional capacity of local NGOs.

5. SIDE-EVENTS

- 5.1. Transforming Humanitarian Action with and for Young People
- 5.2. Trends in Humanitarian Funding: Where we are now and what is ahead
- 5.3. Rebuilding Trust and Increasing Accountability to Prevent Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Harassment of and by Humanitarian Staff
- 5.4. Anticipation and Forecast-based Financing – Reducing humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerability within a forward-looking humanitarian system
- 5.5. From Rhetoric to Action: Local actors driving the participation revolution
- 5.6. Reducing displacement risk and resolving complex internal displacement crises
- 5.7. Examples of Localization in Humanitarian Preparedness and Response
- 5.8. Implementing the New Way of Working
- 5.9. The Humanitarian Response in Yemen
- 5.10. Strengthening the Humanitarian and Development Partnership in the Lake Chad region
- 5.11. Shifting the focus from vulnerability to rights and resilience: A progressive approach to humanitarian action for persons with disabilities
- 5.12. Unlocking private sector innovation and financing
- 5.13. Scaling what works: Innovative approaches to education in emergencies
- 5.14. Enhancing respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians: Sharing good practices
- 5.15. From Joint Analysis to humanitarian, development and peace actors' collective outcomes – the Food Security and Nutrition Sector experience
- 5.16. A Collective Effort of Leaving No One Behind: Strengthening Gender Equality Programming in Humanitarian Action
- 5.17. Building Acceptance for Safe and Sustained Access to People in Need
- 5.18. Linking Humanitarian Cash Transfers to National Social Protection Systems

5.1. Transforming Humanitarian Action with and for Young People

19 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN
Permanent Mission of Qatar to the UN

Organizers:

IFRC
UNFPA
Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth
UN Major Group for Children and Youth (on behalf of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action membership)

Moderator:

Ms. Lama Ranjous, Global Focal Point on Migration with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth

Co-chairs:

Mr. Stephan Schønemann, Head of Department for Humanitarian action, migration and civil society, MFA Denmark
Mr. Essa Al-Mannai, Executive Director, ROTA/EAA (on behalf of H.E. Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the UN)

Panelists:

Mr. Mohammad Hassouneh, Young leader from Jordan
Ms. Jemilah Mahmood, Under-Secretary General for Partnerships, IFRC
Mr. Dereje Wordofa, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA
Mr. James Munn, Director, Norwegian Refugee Council
Mr. Essa Al-Mannai, Executive Director, ROTA/Education Above All
Ms. Anupama Rao Singh, Senior Advisor, UNICEF

Objective:

Of the 1.4 billion people currently living in countries impacted by crises, 40 per cent are under the age of 15. Adolescents aged 10-19 years continue to represent a significant proportion of the population in many conflict and post-conflict settings. These statistics considered, it is the responsibility of humanitarian actors to protect the rights and address the specific needs of young people, including children and adolescents. Actors must collaborate to engage them in humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery with the aim of fostering humanitarian effectiveness and community resilience.

The objectives of this ECOSOC HAS side event were to:

1. Highlight good practices demonstrated by Compact members who are working with and for young people in humanitarian action, and recognizing them as indispensable stakeholders, decision makers, problem-solvers and drivers of change;
2. Review the implementation of the first 18 months of the Compact of Young People in Humanitarian Action through the launch of the Igniting Hope Report; and

3. Outline how the Compact has been able to forge consensus on the alignment of youth engagement policies and strategies in humanitarian action, including by connecting with the existing humanitarian architecture and global processes such as the 2030 Agenda, Agenda for Humanity, Grand Bargain, and the Compact for Refugees as well as the Compact for Safe, Orderly and Safe Migration and the Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security.

Main points raised by panelists:

Mr. Mohammad Hassouneh noted that young people are powerful drivers of sustainability and resilience strengthening for the communities in which they live. However, many entities still do not design programs or projects working with and for the best interest of the young people. Compact members can make a significant difference by being an example for other entities and effectively delivering aid that is more responsive to actual needs.

Mr. Stephan Schønemann shared that Denmark is a Compact member because they want to support youth in every way and because they are serious about SDG 17 on Partnerships. In fact, in Denmark, there is an internal and informal SDG 18 on Youth Engagement. Young people must be part of the solution when dealing with humanitarian challenges, right from the design of programs through to their implementation and evaluation. The global community must pay attention to the inequalities between young women and young men – it is often unsafe for young women to engage in the same activities and opportunities as for young men.

H.E. Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani stressed that the side event and launch of the Igniting Hope Report is an important milestone in showcasing the power of commitment driven by the Compact membership. Transforming the humanitarian landscape with and for young people is an ongoing priority and Qatar is one of the proud cosponsors of the 1st International Conference on Youth Participation in Peace Processes to be held in Helsinki in early 2019.

Ms. Jemilah Mahmood noted that the localization work stream of the Grand Bargain can be a vehicle that helps young people deliver on their aspirations by engaging and holding the world leaders accountable to specific goals and targets. The Compact is unique as it continuously motivates its entities to improve the quality of life of children, adolescents and young adults affected by humanitarian crises.

Mr. Dereje Wordofa stressed that it is time to transform the humanitarian system so that it delivers for young people. The Compact, with its multi-stakeholder membership of 53 entities, has propelled this change since the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. The Igniting Hope Report features the transformation within the membership of the Compact to enable young people to step-up and help amplify humanitarian effectiveness. In fact, the Compact membership has shown how to bring global level commitments to action. Investing in young people is investing in humanity.

Mr. James Munn noted that we must listen to the needs of children, adolescents and young adults, and then actively change the way we help them. It is imperative to create opportunities and open ourselves up to young people. Supporting young people involves bringing together different actors from various pillars of the humanitarian system to identify holistic solutions.

Ms. Anupama Rao Singh relayed that there are not only deficiencies in child-focused policies and strategies, but also a lack of operational guidelines that meaningfully engage children affected by humanitarian crises. Delivering on the Core Commitment #1 of the Compact through developing operational guidelines for engaging youth in humanitarian settings is a tangible contribution by the Compact membership towards reshaping the humanitarian landscape. The IASC will be a key partner in disseminating the Guidelines for engaging young people in humanitarian action that are currently being developed under the umbrella of the Compact.

Mr. Essa Al-Mannai considers it important to develop strategies that help crisis-affected children, adolescents, and young adults assume volunteer and leadership roles in their local communities. By leading the Task Force #3 of the Compact, we have realized the importance of the youth voice in everything we do and are consequently formally establishing a ROTA Youth advisory board.

Key messages of the side event:

- We must collectively ensure that the priorities and rights of young people affected by disaster, conflict, forced displacement and other humanitarian crises are addressed, and that they are informed, consulted, and meaningfully engaged throughout all stages of humanitarian action.
- Through the Compact for young people in humanitarian action, the humanitarian system is starting to recognize the need to work not only for, but also *with*, young people. Systematic localization of the Compact is the next step in ensuring that global commitments can indeed improve lives of young people in local communities affected by humanitarian crises.
- Recognition of the Compact's achievements and relevance by almost 70 participants attending the side event, including representations from the Permanent Missions of Switzerland, Qatar, European Union, Denmark, Estonia, Austria and Canada, as well as the IASC Secretariat, IOM, UNESCO and ICRC, is noteworthy and further underscores the interest in meaningful youth engagement as a strategic vehicle for reshaping the humanitarian landscape and driving humanitarian excellence.
- The Igniting Hope Report presents the work of the diverse, multi-stakeholder Compact membership towards innovative programming that puts the rights and needs of young people front and center. It is also a testimony to the transformation that is taking place in the member organizations of the Compact.

During the discussion, UNHCR noted that young people are the most affected by displacement. UNHCR has established a Youth advisory council and is making strides in generating age and gender disaggregated data. The World Organization of the Scout Movement said that it was streamlining young people into the humanitarian assistance programs that had been established in places such as Greece and Spain. United Muslim Relief expressed readiness to support projects for youth to foster their capacities and showcase their talents.

Outcomes of the side event:

- Reaffirmed the importance of meaningful youth engagement as a strategic vehicle for reshaping the humanitarian landscape and driving humanitarian excellence
- Official announcement of a new member of the Compact, the International Rescue Committee, and celebration of the Compact as a growing family of like-minded 53-member entities.
- The launch of the Igniting Hope Report, with examples of innovative programming that puts the rights and needs of young people front and center. The report underlines the transformation that has been undertaken by the member organizations to deliver on the Core commitments of the Compact.

5.2. Trends in Humanitarian Funding: Where we are now and what is ahead

19 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN
Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN
ICRC
OCHA

Moderator

Mr. Yves Daccord, Director-General, ICRC

Panelists:

Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR
Mr. Chris Degnan, Crisis and Humanitarian Lead, Development Initiatives
Ms. Carla Haddad Mardini, Director, Public Partnerships Division, UNICEF
Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, UN OCHA
Ms. Francisca Pedros, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN
Mr. Niklas Wiberg, Emergency Director, Sweden

Objectives:

Flexible and multi-year funding is increasingly recognized as an important means via which humanitarian actors can address a range of challenges. Unearmarked funding allows humanitarian agencies to prioritize their activities according to assessed needs. Multi-year planning and funding can facilitate more predictable humanitarian response. It can also help achieve a closer connection between humanitarian and development programs. This side event aimed to help donors and humanitarian organizations come to a joint understanding of how resource mobilization and funding allocations would enable a more effective avenue of humanitarian response.

Main points raised by panelists:

Mr. Niklas Wiberg noted that there needs to be a focus on flexible funding, which includes both multi-year and unearmarked donations. This would increase the efficiency of humanitarian financing, which is necessary because humanitarian needs have doubled over the last five years. Encouragingly, there have also been some initiatives with the private sector that have helped to transfer fiscal risk from humanitarian actors to investors.

Mr. Chris Degnan mentioned that the rate of increase of funding for humanitarian crises has slowed in recent years. There also remains a narrow concentration of donors, with three countries accounting for 59 per cent of all assistance. The efficiency of financing can be evaluated by looking at levels of localization, cash transfers, earmarking and multi-year financing – and while improvements have been made across these areas, the rate of progress still falls short of targets set in the Grand Bargain. For instance, only 2.9 per cent of overall international humanitarian assistance in 2017 went directly to national and local responders, compared to a target of 25 per cent by 2020. Cash transfers, meanwhile, amounted to \$2.8 billion in 2017, a 40 per cent increase from 2016, but remain difficult to monitor in many crisis zones. Further information on global funding trends can be found in the 2018 Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report.

Ms. Ursula Mueller stressed that donors generously contributed \$8.3 billion globally by mid-2018 towards humanitarian response. However, she noted that this still falls short of overall financing needs. Currently, \$25.4 billion is required to carry out humanitarian response plans, of which South Sudan, Yemen and plans associated with Syria make up more than 50 per cent. Launching the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) Status Report – June 2018, the ASG noted that there are now 134.1 million people in need in 2018, with 96.2 million people targeted by humanitarian response plans in 40 countries. Humanitarian needs in Afghanistan increased as drought ravaged the country, as well as in Bangladesh as a result of the influx of Rohingya refugees.

Key messages of the side event:

The side event highlighted the key findings of Development Initiatives' 2018 Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report, a data-driven retrospective on collective humanitarian response in 2017, as well as OCHA's Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) Status Report, which provides an overview of funding and people in need across 40 countries covered by UN-coordinated plans as they stand in mid-2018. Donors and humanitarian actors also shared their perspectives on the advantages and challenges of flexible and multi-year funding for humanitarian response.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

UNHCR reported that only 1.5 per cent of funds received were unearmarked, which limited the flexibility they had in responding to crises. Meanwhile, UNICEF reported a strong increase in private sector funding – the majority of which was unearmarked. However, they also noted the challenge of securing unearmarked funding from governments, given the difficulty countries face in both formulating a results-based budget on unearmarked funds, and then justifying it internally to parliaments. Norway concurred with the moderator that political changes presented a challenge to multi-year funding in many countries. A number of INGOs said that pooled funds were the most efficient and effective way to support local action, and expressed hope that CERF allocations could be channeled through country-based pooled funds. There was also a call for stronger, shared data analytics to support anticipatory and forecast-based financing.

Outcomes of the side event:

- Provided an overview of humanitarian funding trends and current funding status.
- Raised awareness of increasing humanitarian needs, funding gaps and least-funded appeals.
- Examined existing resource mobilization practices for humanitarian action.
- Explored the political challenges that inhibit flexible and multi-year funding.

5.3. Rebuilding Trust and Increasing Accountability to Prevent Sexual Abuse, Exploitation and Harassment of and by Humanitarian Staff

19 June 2018

Sponsors:

IASC
InterAction
IOM

Moderator

Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panelists:

Ambassador William Lacy Swing, IOM Director General
Ms. Abby Maxman, President and CEO Oxfam America
Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UNDP Resident Representative, UN Resident Coordinator and UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia
Mr. Matthew Wyatt, Head of Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department, UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Objective:

- Discuss parallels between sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment and abuse (SHA) response systems and share effective practices.
- Differentiate on standards and responsibilities on SHA and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- Explore the impacts of SHA and SEA on institutional efficiency, trust and reputation.

Main points raised by panelists:

In his opening remarks, Mr. Lowcock made it clear that SEA and SHA undermine the principles of humanitarianism and the core values of professionalism that are meant to define the activities of humanitarian aid workers. Sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse have no place in the humanitarian system, and the duty of care towards the people we serve extends also to those we work alongside. Noting that the UN has strong champions in the Secretary General, the Victims' Rights Advocate and the Special Coordinator, Mr Lowcock also outlined the humanitarian community's efforts to combat SHA and SEA: Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals have agreed to apply a shared approach to improving the sector's referencing system and to strengthen investigations capacity. Mr Lowcock called for more resources to strengthen investigation bodies and announced the establishment of a USD 1 million fund, financed by OCHA, to support IASC agencies' investigations as required. Mr Lowcock stressed the need to address imbalances of power between humanitarian workers and those we seek to assist, as well as between men and women in humanitarian organizations, by strengthening accountability and intensifying efforts for gender parity in the workplace at all levels. Mr Lowcock paid tribute to Ambassador Swing, who has served as IASC Champion on PSEA since 2011 and announced that Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF would take on the role of IASC Champion on PSEA and SHA for one year, followed by the High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi.

Ambassador Swing outlined the significant progress made towards building collective and institutional structures to prevent and respond to SEA with the IASC over the last six years. However, much more remains to be done: under-reporting; a culture of impunity and power imbalance; the gap between policy discussions and operational realities; and embedding PSEA in the management of response operations and ingraining zero tolerance as a shared value must continue to be addressed as priorities. Ambassador Swing called for humanitarian organizations to put victims at the center of their efforts, above concerns for reputational risk. Finally, in reflecting on his time as IASC Champion for PSEA, Ambassador Swing noted that he felt more confident than ever about the prospects of addressing SEA owing to the clear leadership of the Secretary General and called for sustained leadership and momentum.

Ms. Maxman opened her remarks by calling attention to gender inequality as the enabler of sexual violence – sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation. Ms. Maxman, representing InterAction and Oxfam, highlighted that work of the InterAction CEO Task Force has produced a pledge to combat SEA and SHA, which has now been signed by 118 CEOs of NGOs. The pledge goes beyond strengthening individual organizational policies. It is an interagency commitment to collective and individual action to address the underlying causes of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse and provide the leadership necessary to make cultural changes. The pledge seeks to empower staff and communities to work openly and collectively, promotes accountability and transparency and creates inclusive and safe environments. Ms. Maxman concluded her remarks by underlining that PSEA requires core programmatic and management costs requiring long-term commitment and sector-wide change.

Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie shared her personal experiences from the Biafran war, and underscored the importance of building trust between local communities and humanitarian agencies. Towards this objective, the international humanitarian community can pool its resources and capacities to work decisively in combatting SEA and SHA. She added that IDPs and returnees must be provided with knowledge on PSEA, and called for humanitarian agencies to train PSEA focal points at the community level. Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie highlighted that PSEA is a standing agenda item on monthly Humanitarian Country Team meetings and explained the outcomes of capacity building for the PSEA Network in Ethiopia to set up Community-Based Complaints Mechanisms, as well as a regional training of trainers to foster a community of practice. Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie called for the UN and the humanitarian system to remain vigilant: zero tolerance may not lead to zero cases of SEA but we must ensure that victims are protected and that communities feel safe and able to speak up about abuse.

During his statement, Mr. Wyatt reiterated the need to do more to protect those we serve and those we work alongside from sexual misconduct, which is rooted in power imbalances. He underscored that organizational culture that provides a permissive environment for sexual harassment and abuse of staff risks creating an enabling environment for the abuse and exploitation of affected populations. Mr. Wyatt outlines the steps that the Department for International Development is taking to drive out exploitation and abuse and noted progress in four key areas: better accountability to affected populations and support for victims and survivors; changes in organizational culture; checks within the employment cycle and measures to avoid transgressors moving through the system; and better protection for whistleblower and ensuring that concerns are heard and acted upon. Mr. Wyatt closed by announcing a Safeguarding Summit in London on 18 October to galvanize firm leadership commitments on these issues from a broad range of stakeholders.

Key messages of the side event:

- SEA and SHA contravene the principles of humanitarian action and directly harms beneficiaries and undermines the integrity of humanitarian organizations.
- SEA and SHA are rooted in gender inequality, power imbalances and a culture of impunity.
- Tackling SEA and SHA requires a significant change in organizational culture, long-term commitment and vigilance and sustained leadership engagement.
- Victims must be placed at the center of our efforts to address SEA.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

Several participants took the floor, including Ms. Kelly Clements, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as representatives of UNICEF, Oxfam, and the United States and Australia. These speakers discussed the consistent underreporting and stressed that donors should not deploy punitive measures against organizations with high numbers of reported cases, but instead support organizations to improve transparency.

Outcomes of the side event:

The high-level side event on rebuilding trust and increasing accountability to prevent sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment of and by humanitarian staff called attention to significant advances within the humanitarian community to address these inter-related issues. However, as each panelist noted, much more remains to be done and areas in need of sustained focus were also highlighted.

The event served to demonstrate high level leadership and articulated commitments to long-term efforts within individual organizations as well as at the collective level. Humanitarian actors are committed to upholding the dignity of affected populations and treating them and one another with respect, while applying the highest levels of conduct and professionalism to humanitarian operations, wherever they take place.

5.4 Anticipation and Forecast-based Financing- Reducing humanitarian needs, risks and vulnerability within a forward-looking humanitarian system

19 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Panelists:

Dr. Thomas Zahneisen, Director for Humanitarian Assistance of the German Federal Foreign Office
H.E. Mr. Saud Al Shamsi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations
Mr. Iqbal Abdullah Harun, Economic Minister, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations
Ms. Ursula Müller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator
Ms. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General, IFRC
Mr. MD Belal Hossain, Director of Disaster Risk Management, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
Ms. Alexandra RÜth, Head of Climate Task Force, German Red Cross
Ms. Sarah Classen, Crisis Anticipation Advisor, START Network

Objective:

- To present methods, tools and approaches for anticipatory humanitarian assistance to disasters and crises, ranging from the development of innovative risk financing instruments to the specific implementation of early actions in high risk countries.
- To showcase how innovative concepts like forecast-based financing and anticipatory funding windows can contribute to the complementarity of humanitarian preparedness programs.
- To discuss how early warning early action approaches can be used to reduce risk and vulnerability of communities at risk in the context of climate change and natural disasters.
- To propose recommendations for the UN humanitarian system and ongoing policy processes to address natural hazards and climate change and to explore how anticipatory approaches can be integrated into the humanitarian system at national, regional and international levels more systematically.

Main points raised panelists:

All the panelists emphasized the value of anticipatory funding as a way of saving lives and using humanitarian financing in an effective and smarter way. They presented existing tools and their impact, and the case study on the 2017 flooding in Bangladesh was illustrated by the Bangladesh Red Crescent.

ASG Mueller spoke about the need for humanitarian and development actors to collaborate to reduce vulnerability and risk and build resilience. It is important for donors to adopt anticipatory approaches. She also highlighted the need to systematically integrate an early action instrument into the CERF as part of a pre-agreed contingency financing system. For contingency financing to work, action triggers must be backed up by strong data and predictive analytics. ASG Mueller also addressed the importance of closer partnerships, risk-sharing with the private sector and stronger data to design better triggers for early action.

IFRC presented its Forecast-based Action by the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), developed with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office and the German Red Cross, which improves the predictability of funding for the implementation of early action before a disaster strikes and addresses some of the limitations of yearly humanitarian funding budgets. Just as important, it also empowers at-risk communities to avoid waiting to be recipients of humanitarian aid after they have been affected, but to take action themselves to help keep their families and livelihoods safe and out of harm's way.

START Network explained the work of its Start Fund, run by NGOs and introduced their Crises Anticipatory Window, inspired by the IFRC Forecast-based Action by DREF.

Key messages of the side event:

- One of the key barriers is that humanitarian financing is still strongly tilted towards response. It remains difficult to mobilize funds for early action, even if we have credible scientific information that a disaster may be on its way. Efforts such as "Forecast-based Financing" are attempts to bridge that gap and to ensure a paradigm shift from response to preparedness. This requires better planning, better integration of scientific information into our work and also changes in donor financing.
- Relieving suffering requires advance planning. It also requires time and opportunity as well as willingness to jointly analyze and prepare.
- We have made great progress on early warning systems, but we can still do much better, especially by empowering local communities to better manage their own risks not only through even better early warning systems, but also through more structural measures and by holding policy makers accountable for better risk management.
- We should move to an anticipatory approach within the humanitarian system where we plan for the next crises, putting the response plans and the resources for them in place before they happen, and releasing the money and mobilizing humanitarian partners as soon as they are needed.
- The key for the coming years will be to link global to local. Global problems such as climate change still materialize at the local level and we need to understand local realities to find the right solutions to reduce vulnerability.

Outcomes of the side event:

It was agreed that for the initiative to work, we need to continue to jointly analyze and share findings from pilots to identify the best models with the most promise and potential for scale-up and replication. We also need more financial literacy within the humanitarian community. In addition, as this approach is finally gaining momentum, we need to continue the dialogue so that we can identify policy steps to promote anticipatory approaches within the humanitarian system and at the national, regional and international levels.

5.5 From Rhetoric to Action: Local actors driving the participation revolution

19 June 2018

Sponsors:

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

Ground Truth Solutions

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)

Oxfam

Chair:

Ms. Jemilah Mahmood, Under-Secretary General, IFRC

Panelists:

Mr. Philippe Besson, Head, Multilateral Division, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation

Ms. Degan Ali, NEAR Network

Mr. Belal Hossain, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society

Mr. Sikander Khan, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF

Ms. Sittie Nurdayhannah Mohamad, Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Philippines

Mr. Nick Van Praag, Executive Director, Ground Truth Solutions

Objective:

In 2016, the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing called for more support to national first responders and for a 'participation revolution'; one which ensures that affected people play an operative role in the way that humanitarian interventions are made. The World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain which followed underlined this as a priority to restore humanity, respect dignity and help reduce humanitarian needs. Two years on, ECOSOC HAS offered an important opportunity to take stock of progress made to date. Notably, how the localization and participation revolution workstreams of the Grand Bargain promote and sustain local capacity to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

To bridge the development and humanitarian divide, local actors and communities must be in the driving seat of humanitarian action. But for this to happen, the humanitarian sector must move from rhetoric to practical action. Drawing from their experience with different actors, speakers at the side-event discussed concrete solutions to drive community engagement in humanitarian responses.

Main points raised panelists:

The chair of the side event, Ms. Jemilah Mahmood, marked the event by announcing the IFRC and Ground Truth launch of a guide entitled "How to Establish and Manage a Systematic Community Feedback Mechanism" that draws on their migration work with National Societies of the Red Cross. She also highlighted recent research on accountability mechanisms set up by the Kenyan Red Cross, which reveals that effective community engagement increases trust, cost effectiveness, and a sense of ownership within local populations.

Moderator Philippe Besson, encouraged panelists not only to focus on what the humanitarian system can improve upon, but also to celebrate its victories, and acknowledge what we can learn from these successes.

Ms. Degan Ali said that local actors are best able to reach communities. However, to empower local actors, power dynamics must change at the structural level, especially in the areas of participation and access. Access to ECOSOC meetings, for example, is almost impossible for local actors, as they are geared toward Northern countries (language availability, visa, costs, etc). She also highlighted problems with Grand Bargain definitions. If we want more resources to go directly to local actors (25% instead of 3%), then an intermediary is not a solution as it fails to create an equitable definition and does not transform the system. Ms. Ali also said that there is a need for innovative funding ideas which can help ensure sustainable operations for local actors. A locally-driven funding infrastructure, where INGOs are not competing with local actors, is essential. Finally, she emphasized that there is a direct linkage between financial sustainability and overhead funding. It is critical that INGOs, donors and agencies provide overhead funding to ensure local organizations are being effectively funded.

Mr. Belal Hossain said that the Bangladesh Red Crescent has been striving to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in a country that is both disaster prone and host to refugees from Myanmar. With this protracted crisis, community engagement means also working with host communities who are affected by the influx of these refugees. Social cohesion is a priority, and Red Crescent staff and volunteers are well placed to consider how this can be done. He also said In Cox Bazar, local NGOs are unable to hire staff because international organizations are hiring them at a higher salary and thus creating a new problem.

Mr. Sikander Khan emphasized that behavior change among the humanitarian community needs to occur for the participation revolution to take off. The system believes that if you are affected you are useless. However, local actors are becoming part of government structures to deliver services and should be included in the conversation. Yet importantly, not all situations are the same. Sustainability elements must be addressed because capacity is two legged, and when money runs out, capacity runs away.

Ms. Sittie Nurdazhannah Mohamad highlighted that working with women's organizations provides local perspectives and fresh ideas for a response that is more efficient and effective. She said that her organization is a local partner of Oxfam in the Philippines, which has worked well through first-hand consultations and equal partnerships.

Mr. Nick Van Praag said that over the last year, Ground Truth Solutions (GTS) has conducted surveys with OECD in six countries to obtain a field perspective on humanitarian operations. In addition to tracking the views of affected people, these surveys looked at the perspective of field staff and local organizations to understand better how these participants viewed relations with their international counterparts. The findings showed that field staff of both international and local organizations have similar views on the effectiveness of aid, the treatment of local organizations and the extent to which international organizations have knowledge of local contexts. The findings also showed that local organizations like the way their international partners bring financial resources to the table. National responders covered by the survey consider their project costs adequately covered and noted that funds are provided with enough flexibility to allow organizations to adapt their activities to changing circumstances. The scores local organizations gave on the level of core funding were also quite high. These findings require further consideration, as some written comments in response to open questions in the survey sounded like a cry for help in face of on-again, off-again financing. Mr. Van Praag noted that effective partnerships are not just about finance, but also capacity strengthening and sharing. He said the twin pillars of a strong relationship are core funding and continuity of support and capacity sharing.

Key messages of the side event:

- There is a direct link between enabling local actors to take the lead in humanitarian responses, effective community engagement and better accountability to affected people. The event underlined the centrality of both the Localization and Participation Revolution workstreams of the Grand Bargain to achieving meaningful results.
- International NGOs should not always take the lead. Rather, they should provide local NGOs with technical support and let them take charge of operations. It should not be forgotten that the government is the ultimate duty bearer, and that it needs to be empowered at a district level and village level to respond to crises.
- Local actors must be supported in their fundraising efforts so that they do not compete with iNGOs (for example, the IFRC model which helps National Society fundraise). Local actors also need to receive strategic funding for advocacy activities and overhead, not only for projects/programs.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

A thorough discussion was held with several contributions from the floor. 'Poaching' of staff from local actors by international organizations was highlighted as a serious issue that continues to undermine the work of local organizations. Local actors usually recruit staff from within communities, training them and investing valuable resources, only to be later disempowered when staff are poached by international organizations.

Participants also considered what can be done to help local actors lead humanitarian responses. One example offered was the Gates Foundation, which gave funding to an international organization on the condition that in a time-bound period a local actor must become the prime recipient/lead in the program.

A participant mentioned that all communities need vibrant civil societies to hold governments to account, deliver services to their peers and complement the functions of the state. There is a need for humanitarians to take that as a starting point to further the interests of the population.

A participant also noted that the need for local NGOs is clear, but insisted we must consider what the role of INGOs would thus look like in the future. They suggested that perhaps INGOs should mainly intervene in conflict situations, where they respond alongside national NGOs.

Outcomes of the side event:

- A recognition that local actors must be empowered through the active support of the UN and its agencies, but also through a fundamental shift in the power structures governing their operations.
- Launch of the IFRC and Ground Truth guide on 'How to Establish and Manage a Systematic Community Feedback Mechanism'.
- Follow-up blog post on the event's discussion published by IFRC and Ground Truth.

5.6 Reducing displacement risk and resolving complex internal displacement crises

19 June 2018

Sponsors:

European Union

IOM

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

OCHA

Moderator:

Mr. Mohammed Abdiker, Director, Department of Operations and Emergencies, IOM

Panelists:

Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Policy Director, OCHA

H.E. Mr. Negash Kebret Batora, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Ethiopia to the UN, Geneva

Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN RC/HC and UNDP Resident Representative in Ethiopia

Ms. Alexandra Bilak, Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

H.E. Ms. Joanne Adamson, Deputy Permanent Representative, Delegation of the European Union to the UN

Objective:

- Producing concrete examples of good national practices for progressing toward durable solutions and reducing internal displacement risk.
- Gaining clarity on the types of evidence needed to inform humanitarian and development responses, including the key data gaps which must be addressed to effectively address protracted internal displacement.
- Developing a stronger understanding of how donors and humanitarian and development agencies can work more effectively in support of governments to address and resolve protracted internal displacement.

Main points raised by panelists:

Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, stressed the need for IDP issues to be incorporated into national laws, policies and development plans, and emphasized the importance of the role of the HCT/UNCT in implementing the New Way of Working. He also drew attention to the OCHA study 'Breaking the Impasse', which uses case studies to examine how to enable better collaboration and complementarity between humanitarian and development actors, in support of Governments' priorities. This is an approach OCHA has been rolling out together with partners in Cameroon and Ukraine.

Ambassador Batora outlined three key guiding principles in addressing the issue of internal displacement: ownership of national issues; government leadership and partnership at local levels. He described Ethiopia's Somali Region Durable Solutions Strategy 2017 - 2020, which implements the New Way of Working on the basis of these principles, and focuses on pastoral community development, water and sanitation and climate change resilience.

Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie provided further context on the situation in Ethiopia, including the strong governance at federal, regional and local levels and the long-term experience of the government in meeting climate and displacement challenges. The RC/HC also described the efforts currently being made

to aid IDPs, including use of IOM's displacement tracking matrix to monitor migration patterns, changing the culture of financing to promote multi-year initiatives and joint humanitarian-development funding and improved joining up of humanitarian and development actors to establish joint missions and documents.

IDMC outlined the challenges in measuring and analyzing internal displacement both in humanitarian and protracted contexts. IDMC underlined key gaps in data on repeated movements and on evolving vulnerabilities, as well as on the longer-term impact of displacement on local and national economies, economic infrastructure and services and national and local health and education structures. Potential uses for internal displacement data were also identified – particularly in the generation of collective outcomes such as those in OCHA study 'Breaking the Impasse'. IDMC stressed the need for governments to take the lead in developing appropriate and country-specific approaches to reduce internal displacement, particularly through their development planning, with the support of the international community and expressed support for tying these efforts into efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The EU described the variety of ways in which it supports IDPs, focusing on both needs-based humanitarian and government-led development assistance, as appropriate, and on scaling up tools that improve self-reliance and dignity, such as cash-based assistance. The EU described their work on joint humanitarian and development frameworks such as those in Ukraine, Sudan and Iraq, and expressed support of the GP20 Plan of Action (2018-2020). The EU also reaffirmed its commitment to lending political and funding support to IDP situations worldwide.

In closing remarks, Mr. Abdiker described internal displacement as a key agenda item, drawing attention to the absence of IDP issues in the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees. He then focused on objectives in moving forward: the need for a political dimension to address internal displacement; the implementation of the New Way of Working; and the GP20 Plan of Action.

Key messages of the side event:

- The need for implementation of the New Way of Working and early engagement with crises using both humanitarian and early recovery approaches.
- The importance of the upcoming Plan of Action for advancing prevention, protection and solutions for internally displaced people (2018-2020) currently being spearheaded by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs and the inter-agency GP20 Steering Group, co-chaired by OCHA and UNHCR.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

The EU gave examples of best practices from its work with IDPs, including utilizing the New Way of Working to facilitate a transition to resilience in Iraq and drafting a joint humanitarian-development framework in Ukraine. In response to a question from World Vision on changing methods of assistance to children, the EU drew attention to its recently adopted Communication on education in emergencies and protracted crises to strengthen the collaborative approach of humanitarian and development assistance to reach those in greatest need of support – displaced and refugee children.

Responding to Development Initiatives' request for elaboration on challenges in data collection for IDPs, IDMC described the need to be able to track all migration routes, the lack of drought displacement data, and the lack of data for the accumulated number of internally disaster-displaced. They also addressed

World Vision's concerns on assistance for children, stating that IDMC is cooperating with UNICEF to disaggregate IDP data by age.

Germany, the Netherlands and the US provided comments during the discussion, expressing support for GP20 and the New Way of Working to support solutions. Comments were also made on the need to continue to collect examples of good practice in operationalizing the New Way of Working.

Outcomes of the side event:

Over 50 attendees have been informed on some best practices in addressing IDP needs, leading to a greater potential for discussion of and engagement with internal displacement issues.

5.7 Examples of Localization in Humanitarian Preparedness and Response

20 June 2018

Sponsors:

Charter4Change
Start Network

Chair and moderator:

Mr. Michael Mosselmans, Head of Humanitarian Policy and Practice, Christian Aid/ACT Alliance

Panelists:

Ms. Nanette S. Antequisa, Executive Director, Ecosystems Works for Essential Benefits (EcoWEB), Philippines
Mr. Steve Scott, Head of DFAT's Humanitarian and Refugee Policy Branch, Government of Australia
Mr. Hero Anwar, Executive Director, Rehabilitation, Education, and Community Health (REACH), Iraq

Note: Mr. Reaz Ahmed, Director General, Department of Disaster Management, Government of Bangladesh was not able to participate due to the flooding disaster response.

Objective:

- The main objective of this side event was to build international momentum and support for localization initiatives, including the centrality of and interconnections between investing in preparedness and localization, by providing examples that work and showcasing good practice.
- The side event aimed at presenting ways in which donor governments are shaping their global policies and shifting their practices to support local actors and highlighted efforts in Iraq and the Philippines, where local and national NGOs have been supported to lead on humanitarian preparedness and response, and build networks for coordination and collaboration in order to work more effectively and efficiently within their communities.
- The side-event was also an opportunity to offer positive examples of putting localization into practice that have emerged from the Start Network's DFID funded Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme and from members within the Charter for Change network.

Main points raised by panelists:

The localization agenda has strong synergies with other Grand Bargain priorities, including reducing duplication of compliance and assessments of local partners, and participation and leadership of survivors in humanitarian response work. There is a consistent need to acknowledge local agencies' existing capacities and the need to trust communities to lead humanitarian responses. This was echoed by Ms. Anwar who said: "Localization is trust, care, working together, transparency and, importantly, no different classes because sometimes NGOs are treated like second class".

Mr. Scott shared that some donor governments are already shaping their global policies and shifting their practices to support local actors. It will be vital to talk to local actors to find out what is useful. This provides good examples to peer government agencies.

Ms. Antequisa noted that where local and national NGOs have had more space to lead on humanitarian preparedness and response, they have been able to build networks for coordination and collaboration to work more effectively and efficiently within communities.

Mr. Mosselmans called on international NGOs interested in advancing on the Grand Bargain commitment to localization to join the Charter4Change to share learning, experiences and challenges.

Key messages of the side event:

- Change within the sector will come from 'leading and demonstrating the change, by doing the work'.
- Achieving localization should be a positive and constructive process for all in order to deliver better outcomes for crisis affected people.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

- Capacity exists at every level and facet of the sector. Given that all humanitarian organizations have gaps in capacity, we can all potentially learn from one another.
- Many of the successful initiatives by C4C members and the START Network highlight the centrality of investing in local actors during 'peacetime' through capacity strengthening and other preparedness work.
- Localization can help us be more inclusive, such as ensure gender sensitive programming as well as addressing the full spectrum of the 'leave no one behind' agenda.

Outcomes of the side event:

- All stakeholders committed to continue putting localization into practice, challenging mindsets, and exchanging learning.
- Charter4Change resources on a range of topics within the localization agenda are now available. A good and innovative example of practices in localization, shared during the session – by both panelists and audience members – will be made available on the Charter4Change website.
- More on the Start Network's Disasters & Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP) is here. Watch a video on work in Kenya, keep up to date with Start Network's localization efforts at <https://startnetwork.org/localisation>.

5.8 Implementing the New Way of Working

20 June 2018

Sponsors:

OCHA

Save the Children

ICVA

Moderator:

Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Policy Director, OCHA

Panelists:

Ms. Allegra Maria Del Pilar Baiocchi, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordination for Cameroon

Mr. Peter de Clercq, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia

Ms. Nasra Ali Ismail, Deputy Director, Somalia NGO Consortium

Mr. Pim Kraan, Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children Netherlands

Mr. Stephen Tull, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Chad

Objective:

- Provide lessons learned from Resident Coordinators and NGO leaders applying the New Way of Working (NWOW) in the field, highlight the progress made, and discuss opportunities and challenges to further advance this approach in-country.
- Showcase how an effective implementation of the NWOW around collective outcomes can contribute to a reduction in the risk and vulnerability of affected people, and therefore a reduction in recurrent humanitarian need and funding levels, particularly in protracted crises.

Main points raised by panelists:

Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer opened the side event by highlighting four key points that should frame the discussion on the NWOW:

1. The SDGs and their call to reduce risk, vulnerability and overall levels of need should provide the overall framework for humanitarian and development actors. The NWOW requires development and humanitarian actors, along with national and local counterparts as well as donors, to work jointly in support of collective outcomes that reduce risk and vulnerability, over a multi-year timeframe and based on the comparative advantage of the different actors.
2. The past decade has seen a dramatic increase in humanitarian funding requirements, with the 2018 annual humanitarian appeal exceeding \$25 billion dollars. The duration of appeals has increased, with the average appeal now lasting seven years.
3. Strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus aimed at reducing need, risk and vulnerability was therefore identified by the majority of stakeholders as a top priority at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). Humanitarian and development actors were challenged to work differently together to contribute to the common vision of supporting the furthest behind first and in support of collective outcomes.
4. The Secretary-General has embraced the NWOW and made it a central piece of his reform efforts to strengthen collaboration between humanitarian and development actors. He has identified the Sahel, Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and

Afghanistan as the five priority areas for the Joint Steering Committee to Advance Humanitarian and Development Collaboration.

Following the opening remarks, Ms. Allegra Baiocchi (RC/HC Cameroon) reminded participants that there were three key reasons why the NWOW is so crucial. First, it should be a key initiative to help restore the dignity of the people humanitarians wish to serve. Second, with many of the humanitarian crises in the Sahel region being a manifestation of existing structural and chronic vulnerabilities, humanitarian interventions alone are insufficient in achieving a sustainable reduction in vulnerability and needs; if real results are to be achieved, humanitarian actors have to work more closely with development partners to overcome a lack of development, chronic vulnerabilities and poverty. Finally, the NWOW presents a very real opportunity to create more efficient funding. The NWOW is therefore "the right, the smart and the cost-effective thing to do."

Mr. Pim Kraan (CEO, Save the Children Netherlands) warned that an ever-increasing funding gap and a rise in protracted crises is risking the lives of people and children in fragile settings because the humanitarian system is not organized to effectively mitigate risk, act early and support quick recoveries. He pointed out that the NWOW had the potential to expand the parameters of what could be done by removing the constraints of siloed approaches and overcoming institutional and funding obstacles. While the NWOW had been a long time in the making, it has now reached a point where it provides a catalyst for enhancing the experience of communities and the learning and improvement of the aid sector. Mr. Kraan stressed, however, that it is important that life-saving activities remains a priority.

Mr. Peter de Clercq (DSRSG and RC/HC for Somalia) spoke next of his work in Somalia, stressing the importance of first developing collective analysis so that the analysis can be used to plan more durable solutions. He also agreed that long-term interventions are required. Mr. de Clercq explained how using the national Government as a key partner in collective analysis and planning for collective outcomes was successful in Somalia. He warned, however, that the process for collective action is still very much a UN driven effort, and that the circle of actors in the nexus needed to be broadened, in particular by bringing more NGOs into collective analysis and planning.

Ms. Nasra Ismail (Deputy Director, Somalia NGO Consortium) spoke of her experiences in Somalia from an NGO perspective, highlighting her close work with UN partners, including Mr. de Clercq. She called for systemic change, and saw the NWOW as a vehicle for such change. Ms. Ismail emphasized that the knowledge of local NGOs must be captured in the NWOW in a more systematic manner, given the widespread local interest in the initiative. Ms. Ismail concluded by saying that humanitarian assistance should be driven by integrated approaches towards multi-year financing and planning, and that all actors needed to "collaborate by design and by default".

Mr. Stephen Tull (RC/HC for Chad) reported on the implementation of the NWOW in Chad, emphasizing that Chad needed to be considered a humanitarian emergency as well as a development emergency, given that development challenges were the driving factors behind the ongoing humanitarian crisis. He outlined how an inclusive and timely partnership with the Government based on joint analysis had led to the formulation of a multi-year national development plan and collective outcomes which were closely aligned with the humanitarian response plan (HRP) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Mr. Tull also highlighted the important role NGOs had played, emphasizing that multiple heads of leadership were critical if a successful implementation of the NWOW was to be ensured. Lastly, he appealed

to donors for improved funding and engagement to better support the actors on the ground. He called on donors to “own” the NWOW and to finance and support collective outcomes. Mr. Tull concluded by highlighting the importance of the NWOW in helping countries achieve the SDGs.

Key messages:

Panelists emphasized that the New Way of Working and its focus on collective outcomes – concrete and measurable, over a multi-year framework – offers a clear pathway to achieving the SDGs, as well as a sustainable reduction in needs, risk and vulnerability. With humanitarian action alone insufficient in addressing many of the underlying structural and chronic vulnerabilities, panelists agreed that the NWOW was a critical opportunity to strengthen coherence between humanitarian and development action to create lasting solutions for recurring humanitarian needs. Panelists further noted that for it to succeed, the NWOW required a diversity of actors to come together, moving beyond encompassing just UN agencies and including local and international NGOs, Governments and donors. Speaking of their experiences on the ground in articulating collective outcomes through joint analysis and planning, several panelists also specifically called on donors in their capacity as bilateral actors to support the achievement of collective outcomes through dedicated financing strategies. The open discussion that followed further highlighted the need to strengthen collective leadership to support actors to move more systemically towards joint analysis and planning in order to operationalize the NWOW.

5.9 The Humanitarian Response in Yemen

20 June 2018

Sponsor:

OCHA

Chair and moderator:

Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panelists:

Mr. David Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme (by VTC connection)

Ms. Shahida Azfar, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF

Ms. Mai Aleryani, Member of the Executive Office, Yemen Women's Union

Objective:

To provide an in-depth update on the current crisis in Yemen and the progress made through the implementation of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP). To analyze what can be achieved when Member States allocate unearmarked funding to a highly prioritized and funded response plan, as evidenced by recent contributions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the State of Kuwait and the United States at the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen on 3 April in Geneva. In addition, the efficacy of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) was highlighted through the use of video footage captured in various locations around Yemen that emphasized the profound effect that the receipt of life-saving humanitarian assistance has on civil society and human dignity.

Main points raised by panelists:

Mr. David Beasley highlighted key aspects of the humanitarian response in Yemen. He praised the various partnerships that have been formed with key donors, as well as the improved coordination within the Humanitarian Country Team. However, he stressed that access challenges still complicate the humanitarian response. He discussed how the coalition is committed to protecting Hodeida Port infrastructure to ensure that it remains functional for the approximately 20 million people in Yemen that rely on the importation of essential goods and oil derivatives. He thanked donors for their generous funding that will allow the UN and partners to continue and expand operations, and prevent pandemics and famine. He briefed on the dire situation on the ground and how the UN is responding in what he described as extremely difficult conditions. He acknowledged the role of the humanitarian responders in Yemen and thanked them for their commitment to "stay and deliver". He urged all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian law while allowing the UN to access to people in need.

Ms. Shahida Azfar thanked Member States for their generous contributions that made possible the scaled-up humanitarian response in Yemen. She outlined a range of life-saving interventions that recent funding had enabled UNICEF to deliver, and highlighted many of the struggles faced by Yemeni civil society. The health status of pregnant and lactating women, newborns and young children – many of which are acutely malnourished – is particularly alarming, and inevitably leads to high infant mortality rates. She spoke on the need for improved access to water and sanitation systems in order to combat the spread of preventable diseases such as diphtheria and cholera. Highlighting that the unconditional cash transfer program provides freedom to the "poorest of the poor", she emphasized that the modality allows families to determine their

individual needs. This is all made possible by unearmarked unconditional funding that enables UNICEF to rapidly respond and reach people very quickly. Like WFP, she spoke on Hodeida, the logistical challenge of delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance to those affected by the offensive, and the need for sustained access to import and preposition supplies. She advocated for pauses in conflict to allow the cholera immunization campaign to take place.

Ms. Mai Aleryani acknowledged the generosity of donors who have contributed to the YHF, noting that the YMU has received around USD \$3 million in unearmarked funding. She described how the fast and flexible YHF mechanism enhanced YMU project delivery. Mai described how previous funding mechanisms took months to disperse the funds and when eventually received, the situation on the ground had invariably changed, resulting in further delays. She noted that the YMU and other national NGOs have been able to reach areas inaccessible to other organizations given the YMU's lack of political affiliation. She also highlighted how women are being systematically targeted and subject to political suppression. She emphasized that it is important for women to participate in peace discussions and appealed for more funding towards women's programming, especially in economic empowerment and reproductive health services.

Key messages of the side event:

1. Gratitude expressed to Member States who announced pledges at the High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian crisis in Yemen on 3 April in Geneva.
2. Member States that have not yet disbursed their pledges should do so at their earliest convenience so that the humanitarian response in Yemen can continue to grow.
3. Unearmarked unconditional allocations of funding made by Member States enables a much faster response by UN Agencies and their partners to people with the greatest need.
4. The humanitarian community plays an imperative role in providing life-saving humanitarian assistance, and this support must continue in the future.
5. Continued financial assistance will be required as the scale of the crisis continues to grow.
6. Progress was made over the past year because of increased coordination with partners on the ground including local NGOs.
7. Gains have been made in accessing areas affected by the conflict, enabling the provision of assistance to around 75 percent of the Yemeni population in need.
8. All parties to the conflict must adhere to international humanitarian law while allowing the UN to access to people in need.
9. Humanitarian assistance is neutral, independent and impartial, and the humanitarian community requires sustained access to people in need. Essential infrastructure must remain operational to facilitate the importation, prepositioning, movement and delivery of supplies.
10. Humanitarian assistance will not solve the crisis. Rather, what is urgently required is processes that will lead to a political settlement.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

Participants appreciated the focus of the event, expressed deep concern over the humanitarian situation and underscored that damage to infrastructure and disruption to the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance is unacceptable.

It was suggested that Member States recommit to humanitarian relief for the Yemeni people and to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The YHRP embodies these principles, and employs the entire UN humanitarian system to address a deeply worrisome situation, ensuring coordination and coherence of efforts. The YHRP uses the UN's expertise to set priorities and cluster activities, rather than having individual agencies seek funds from donors bilaterally. The Plan also fulfills many of the Grand Bargain principles, including lower administration fees, which have historically been a hurdle for some donors. This is the One UN that Member States have been asking for.

The Plan also allows for humanitarian support into areas that bilateral donors cannot reach, but where needs are tremendous and lives are equally important. The YHRP presents a powerful precedent for how the UN can work with a huge range of partners and parties to ensure that the humanitarian needs of all Yemenis can be met, regardless of location and affiliation. The Plan offers a model for the future of UN humanitarian action.

Deep appreciation expressed for humanitarian workers who work tirelessly to ensure the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and services, and OCHA's coordination role.

Member States called upon all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and noted the importance of the protection of civilians. They expressed unequivocal support for the UN special envoy, and stressed that a political solution is required to reach a settlement.

Outcomes of the side event:

1. Agreement that the crisis in Yemen will not be resolved anytime soon, and that Member States will continue to contribute funding beyond 2017.
2. Agreement that unearmarked unconditional funding through the YHRP and YHF to highly prioritized projects is a fast, efficient and effective way to quickly reach people in need, and scale up the response.

5.10 Strengthening the Humanitarian and Development Partnership in the Lake Chad Region

20 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Missions of Nigeria to the UN
Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the UN
Permanent Mission of Niger to the UN
Permanent Mission of Chad to the UN

Panelists:

H.E. Magagi Louan, Minister of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management of the Republic of Niger,
H.E. Tijjani Muhammed-Bande, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations
H.E. Ali Alifei Moustapha, Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations
Mr Ali Ahidjou, Counsellor, Mission of Cameroon to the UN on behalf of H.E. Michel Tommo Monthe,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations
Ms. Allegra Baiochi, Resident Humanitarian Coordinator (Cameroon)
Ms. Bintou Djibou, Resident Humanitarian Coordinator (Niger)
Mr. Stephen Tull, Resident Humanitarian Coordinator (Chad)
Mr. Edward Kaloun Resident Humanitarian Coordinator (Nigeria)

Objectives:

The objective of this side event was to address the progress and good practices emerging from countries in the Lake Chad region in order to advance humanitarian development collaboration, as well as national, regional and international responses to need, risk and vulnerability and the demands of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The event aimed at sharing experiences and further enhancing the dialogue around the humanitarian and development partnership in the Lake Chad Region. The event also explored methods for ensuring the protection of civilians, with particular attention to women and children and others in vulnerable situations.

Main points raised by panelists:

H.E. Magagi Loanun noted that regional leaders have resolved to work together to ensure a comprehensive response to the crisis in the Lake Chad region. He flagged that several mechanisms are already in place, ranging from the Multinational Joint Task Force to the promotion of collaborative social-economic projects under the auspices of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC). The Government of Niger continued to respond to the needs of those affected by humanitarian crisis, especially in Diffa Region and Organogramme.

H.E. Tijjani Muhammed-Bande stated that the Nigerian Government had developed the US\$3.7 billion robust Buhari Plan to advance the humanitarian and development nexus in the country. The Plan, being implemented through several domestic and external facilities, has reconstruction, rehabilitation, resettlement, reintegration and reconciliation programs as part of its integrative and comprehensive response to the situation in north-eastern Nigeria and the Lake Chad region.

H.E. Monthe stated that Cameroon would finance resilience and socio-economic projects and called for a response to humanitarian need while simultaneously reducing risk and vulnerability.

H.E. Alifei Mustapha mentioned that the Chadian Government had set up a new coordination mechanism across the ministries to identify local requirements and develop coherent responses that are flexible to address the Lake Chad challenges.

The Resident Humanitarian Coordinator in Niger referred to the prevalence of large movement of refugees and massive food shortages. Currently, one out of every two persons in the affected areas are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, while 140,000 are on the brink of severe food insecurity. Additionally, an estimated 12,000 children are reportedly out of school. She emphasized the need for development actors to work alongside humanitarian actors, noting that efforts led by the Government are currently underway to bring the UN system, NGOs and the World Bank together to identify collective outcomes.

The Resident Coordinator in Cameroon stated that humanitarian assistance received only 8% funding and over 70,000 returnees were still unable to be catered for by the government. However, she stressed that the country was the first to benefit from IDA 18 refugees window. "The message is simple," she said, "please don't forget the Lake Chad Region."

The Resident Coordinator in Chad stated that virtually all the 500,000-people living in the Lake Chad region needed assistance, with over 137,000 already displaced. Chad was the first country where Government, humanitarian and development actors adopted collective outcomes to reduce need, risk and vulnerability. "The New Way of Working was made for the Lake Chad Region," he said, and called on donors to ensure both adequate humanitarian and development funding to enable this approach.

The Resident Coordinator in Nigeria remarked that Nigeria presents a suitable case for demonstrating the NWOW and an action plan has been developed to bring key actors to the table, and to create platforms for peace-building and human rights and the development of multi-year investments and flexible resource mobilization. Importantly, development issues, i.e. multidimensional poverty, climate, crisis and conflicts, are the root causes of the crisis, and thus the humanitarian and development nexus is the best mechanism through which to provide responses.

Key messages of the side event:

The side event underlined the commitment of Member States, donor and development partners to scale up national, regional and international commitments to the region through the proposed establishment of the Lake Chad Countries, Donors and Partners Coordinating forum at the UN. Participants agreed to implement the NWOW across the region through joint programming and multi-year finance mechanisms. They highlighted the continued need to address the protection-related aspects of the crisis, provide access to humanitarian assistance and ensure respect for the humanitarian principles. They further stressed the need for coherence, and called for donors to provide sufficient yet sustainable funding that reduces need and vulnerability. They stressed the importance of the Berlin Oslo 2 Conference to address not only the causes but the consequences of the situation in the Lake Chad.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

Norway, while stressing that national and local governments should act as the lead facilitators of the humanitarian-development nexus, mentioned its three priority areas in the region:

1. Increased and more effective humanitarian assistance;
2. Better protection of civilians and respect for humanitarian principles; and

3. Increased coherence between efforts that respond to humanitarian need, development and stabilization.

The United Kingdom stated that the Lake Chad Region needs a sustained multi-year effort to address humanitarian need and humanitarian and development actors need to work together to address vulnerabilities. It stressed the importance of involving the national governments and ensuring their lead in the process.

Canada stated its commitment to increasing its own assistance to programs that address humanitarian need and reduce vulnerabilities. Canada also promised to increase its earmarked multi-year funding in line with its Grand Bargain commitment.

The EU stated that Chad and Niger were among the EU pilot countries for operationalizing the humanitarian-development nexus and called for strengthened civil-military coordination and facilitating access for humanitarian delivery.

The Netherlands stressed the importance of continued engagement by the international community, noting that the participation of international partners remains a top priority in the development of the region. Key areas for the NWOW are hunger and food security, climate change and water scarcity.

The United States, the largest donor to the crisis response in the last two years, indicated its commitment to building consensus among donors, including between humanitarian and development partners. It promised to remain engaged in its overall support assistance to the region.

Outcome of the side event:

The outcome of the event was a commitment to facilitate periodic UN-based meetings among the countries, donors and partners in the Lake Chad in order to accelerate momentum and scale-up visibility around Lake Chad issues at the organization. The ultimate view would be to prioritize the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 2349. There was also agreement on the need to build on existing initiatives and mechanisms to facilitate the humanitarian-development nexus in the region.

5.11 Shifting the focus from vulnerability to rights and resilience: A progressive approach to humanitarian action for persons with disabilities

20 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN
Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the UN
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the UN
Christian Blind Mission
International Disability Alliance (IDA)
IASC Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Chair:

H.E. Christian Braun, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the UN

Moderator:

Mr. Gopal Mitra, UNICEF Programme Specialist

Panelists:

Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Coordinator
Ms. Judith Umoh, Vice Chairperson of the African Disability Forum Ekaete
Ms. Allanah Kjellgren, ICRC Diplomatic Adviser
Mr. Claus Lindroos, Director for Humanitarian Assistance and Policy, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland
Mr. Daniel Seymour, Director for Humanitarian Action, UN Women

Objective

Persons with disabilities continue to be among the most marginalized in any crisis-affected community. 80% live in poverty, and an estimated 9.7 million are forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict and human rights violations. In some cases, morbidity in disasters has been estimated at a rate four times higher than that of persons without disabilities, as are instances of sexual violence and abuse. In this context, the objective of the event was to look at how humanitarian actors can identify new and inclusive approaches to address the situation of persons with disabilities in a crisis context.

Main points raised by panelists:

Ms. Mueller mentioned how Member States are calling on OCHA to gather data on how persons with disabilities have benefited from humanitarian country based pool funds. She noted a lack of adequate data, capacity and resources as the most impactful barriers to inclusion.

Ms. Judith Umoh raised strongly the importance of ensuring the participation of persons with disabilities in the response. She also emphasized the need to grow the capacity of organizations representing persons with disabilities, and the importance of providing easy to read versions of documents to overcome barriers to information.

Ms. Allanah Kjellgren shared the outcome of an internal assessment that pointed to the challenges to inclusion within the Movement. The challenges identified were related to a lack of understanding of social dynamics, including how disability, sexual orientation and gender identity might contribute to vulnerability or

ability to participate; lack of training for staff on disability inclusive humanitarian action; a partial understanding of inclusion that does not encompass concepts such as participation or capacity building; the difficulty to address disability related discrimination in some contexts and cultures; and the lack of data analysis.

Mr. Claus Lindroos pointed to the need to support the development of strong partnerships and effective cooperation among actors, and to continue the advocacy and awareness raising, especially within States situated in the Global South.

Mr. Daniel Seymour pointed to the need for accountability frameworks in order to move forward on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. He also made strong reflections on the need to build capacity and expertise, and to develop partnerships if the expertise is lacking in-house.

Key messages of the side-event:

Participants stressed the importance to move away from a “one size fits all” model, and instead urged for actors to reflect on the diversity of affected people. They also emphasized the need to ensure that data on persons with disabilities is collected and analyzed. Finally, participants underscored that future efforts must form partnerships that allow for the incorporation of the resilience, capacities and expertise of people with disabilities and their representative organizations.

5.12 Unlocking private sector innovation and financing

21 June 2018

Sponsors:

ECHO

ODI Humanitarian Policy Group

Chair:

Ms. Monique Pariat, Director-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission

Moderator:

Mr. Barnaby Willitts-King, Senior Research Fellow at the Humanitarian Policy Group, ODI

Panelists:

Dr. Philippe Spoerri, Head of Delegation, ICRC Delegation to the United Nations in New York

Mr. Henry McLoughlin, Director, Corporate Development, Capricorn Investment Group

Mr. John Kluge, Refugee Investment Network

Objective:

The Objective of this side event was to identify opportunities where the private sector could fully invest in humanitarian action. It also considered the barriers preventing scaled up engagement, including the challenges of aligning different objectives and business models, as well as the ongoing concerns surrounding sustainability and profit.

Main points raised by panelists:

Ms. Pariat highlighted the need to broaden the private sector resource base, as set out in the High-level panel on humanitarian financing. This will require earlier engagement with development actors in fragile situations and protracted crises in order to ensure effective responses. The growing mix of innovative financial instruments is promising but there is still a lack of evidence on the various costs and benefits of each model. We also need to look at efficiency and the opportunities of innovation and new technologies. The EU innovation prize on Affordable High Tech for Humanitarian Aid and Blockchains for Social Good are initiatives to encourage cross-sector cooperation. This is a priority for the EU and it will use its convening power to put it on the international agenda. Future events of note include the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, and an as yet unannounced European Commission event on the private sector to be held sometime in the Spring of 2019.

Dr. Spoerri highlighted how ICRC was itself privately funded for much of its early existence, meaning that this is not a new dynamic for the organization. Its current pilot of the humanitarian 'impact bond' to support orthopedic centers is significant. Dr. Spoerri noted that working with the private sector is primarily about the potential reputational risk, and the possibility that a humanitarian organization could become indebted to the interests of its corporate partners. However, he also noted that managing the risks of any partnership is a regular part of ICRC work, stressing that this is the case as much with governments as it is with the private sector. ICRC is very conscious of the huge risk of even perception problems. While scale is small now there is a great need to expand in innovation as well as financing.

Mr. McLoughlin discussed how the 'magic happens' when you can package a positive impact of investments with something that gives market returns. Concessional capital – i.e. where the return is below the market rate – will always be available but it is limited compared to the potential of market-based investment. There are exciting examples in energy access – for example in replacing diesel generators with solar energy which is cheaper, healthier and more reliable. Capricorn has invested in a solar company in India, for example. It also invests in Automatix, which is a containerized solar array for rapid deployment. Digitization of payments for mobile cash, and key documents such as property titles is another area of investment. Concerns about the finance sector based on bad behavior of some institutions can be mitigated in a number of ways, including, for example, by registering as a 'B' corporation which is submitted to regular audits. Examples such as its investment in the satellite imaging company Planet showed that it behaved responsibly by blurring its data and making it available to humanitarian organizations.

Mr. Kluge reflected that the private sector has not been part of the conversation so far, but insist that there are opportunities to overcome the barriers in the collective challenge of supporting forced migrants and host economies. There is a desire to do more from different types of private capital including faith-based funds, pension funds and impact investors – but this is falling short of potential as these are tough, risky markets. Organizations such as Chobani, AirBnB and IKEA Foundation are experimenting. Refugee Investment Network was set up as a last resort to help investors find how they can participate and identify opportunities – so they can profit 'with' communities rather than from them. Kiva has shown that refugees are a lower credit risk for microfinance than other customers. Local entrepreneurs are starved of capital. We need courageous capital to take risks, but also the humanitarian community needs to trust investors.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, emphasized that the private sector exists to identify profitable activities. Indeed, while it may test things out as a loss leader, it ultimately needs to make a profit. With that said, he highlighted a number of important opportunities to explore:

1. Insurers believe there is a market for a range of crises;
2. Greater collaboration is needed between IFIs and the private sector;
3. Contingency products such as catastrophe bonds/drawdown options;
4. Bonds – bringing forward the benefits e.g. of immunization
5. Challenge is not finding a lender, it is whether the borrower is satisfied it is good value – need to invest in engaging as an intelligent customer;
6. Massive opportunities from digital cash, i.e. MPesa;
7. Data collaboration/predictive analytics rather than surveys;
8. OCHA's role in convening and helping sector be intelligent customers.

Key messages of the side event:

The event highlighted opportunities for humanitarian agencies to engage in more extensive collaborations with private sector innovation and financing. Investors are interested in social as well as market returns. There are an increasing number of examples of innovative partnerships that demonstrate not only the potential of these collaborations, but also appropriate methods for managing any risks. The key question is what needs to be done to drive greater scale in such partnerships and create a future flow of opportunities for responsible social investors so that a real market develops. Governments and foundations have a key role to play in catalyzing pilot investments to establish a track record that can broaden and deepen the market.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

The discussion and Q&A from the audience focused on the challenge of combining profit motives with humanitarian objectives, and the need to recognize the limits of such approaches. This is reminiscent of the microfinance debate in the 1980s where it became clear that the poorest were not the best target for microfinance. Insurers such as Munich Re will not invest in manmade conflicts. Other questions were raised regarding the gender dimensions of such approaches, and how to address social change and poor governance.

Outcomes of the side event:

Awareness of the issues under discussion raised by the event can lead to an expansion of the potential of public-private partnerships for financing and innovation.

5.13 Scaling what works: Innovative approaches to education in emergencies

21 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of Jordan to the UN
Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN
Queen Rania Foundation
Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI)
Education Cannot Wait
No Lost Generation

Chair:

H.E. Sima Sami Bahous, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Moderator:

Mr. Mark Chapple, Head of No Lost Generation, World Vision International

Panelists:

Mr. Rahul Chandran, CEO, Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI)
Ms. Lindsey Kneuve, Head of Social Impact, Pluralsight
Mr. Nafez Dakkak, Managing Director and CEO, London Office, Queen Rania Foundation
Ms. Helena Barroco, Special Adviser, former President of Portugal; Secretary-General, Global Platform for Syrian Students

Objective:

To demonstrate how governments, humanitarian actors, businesses and other partners are finding and scaling the best solutions to address education for refugees and host communities, with a focus on Syria and Iraq.

Main points raised by panelists:

Ambassador Bahous emphasized the shared responsibility to protect and improve the prospects of refugees. She noted that, "No one chooses to be a refugee, but the rest of us have a choice for how we can help them." She also highlighted the need for both humanitarian and development solutions to deal with protracted crises. She highlighted the example of Jordan, which hosts more than 1.3 million refugees and has not turned any child away from school. However, she emphasized that this generosity has taken a toll on resources and infrastructure, and reiterated the call to work collectively, to innovate together and find new ways to scale solutions in the area of education in emergencies.

The moderator, Mr. Mark Chapple, noted that governments, the private sector and civil society are the key pillars needed to address this complex challenge. No Lost Generation is working to provide education, child protection, youth empowerment, and employment for refugees and host communities, while also addressing issues that can hamper education and children's well-being, such as child labor and child marriage.

Mr. Rahul Chandran called on all actors who work with people affected by the refugee crisis to take a central role in designing solutions. But once solutions are found, he noted, they must be collectively brought to scale. He called for the use of evidence to show what works best, and for the political commitment

required to facilitate the dissemination of best practice solutions to all relevant actors. He announced the launch of the partnership with Education Cannot Wait and a range of donors and partners to collectively scale education in emergencies, taking advantage of technology and working across the humanitarian-development divide. He highlighted the need to be slow and careful with good evidence frameworks, but also the importance of moving quickly to take advantage of solutions that are ready-to-use.

Ms. Lindsey Kneuve found that the cross-sector collaboration on No Lost Generation's Tech Task Force has enabled Pluralsight One to scale learning across the Middle East. Similarly, collaboration with other private sector leads and humanitarian actors has facilitated rapid iteration and created an ecosystem of complementary solutions that lead to holistic outcomes. She noted that youth are looking to create radical solutions, which require continuous access to high quality resources that build the knowledge base that will empower them to shift from consumers to creators. Some of the challenges that private sector actors often face include contextual constraints, no direct connection to the root causes driving instability, and difficulty summoning the rationale that can lead to radical solutions. She thus emphasized the need to elevate the voices of refugees and refugee-hosting communities to find relevant solutions. She noted that companies must balance the long-term view needed to address complex challenges with the rapid iteration needed to build dynamic solutions.

Mr. Nafez Dakkak spoke about the Foundation's Edraak initiative, an open Arabic e-learning platform that reaches almost 2 million learners. The platform leverages technology to combine user-centered design with proximity to learners. He noted that in addition to this platform, the Queen Rania Foundation is now asking how it can do more for those who have missed schooling or who may have limited school hours due to double-shifts and other adjustments. He emphasized the need for products to be supported by a real-life context and language, and urged for the investment in infrastructure and hardware that is needed to enable those solutions.

Ms. Helena Barroco stressed that innovation is not just about technology, but also about changing mindsets. She called for the scope of refugee education to include higher education and job skills. Only 1% of refugees have access to higher education. She noted that Portugal has awarded 399 scholarships for higher education, but that much more needs to be done. The GPSS has developed a Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies that includes donations; an academic solidarity levy (230 million students globally giving just one dollar could lead to sustainable funding); and an impact investment fund for refugees to transform good ideas into successful businesses and remunerating investments. She stressed the need to deliver more, better and faster higher education opportunities for refugees and forcibly displaced students, as per the New York Declaration and Lisbon Call to Action.

Key messages of the side event:

The event stressed partnership and collaboration, including with refugees and those hosting them. Panelists called for greater resources, new ideas and political support for education for refugees. While they stressed a long-term view of crises and the humanitarian-development nexus, they were simultaneously declaring themselves as "unapologetically impatient," because the need is now.

Outcomes of the side event:

Panelists highlighted concrete initiatives that will need support and championing to reach those in need, while also emphasizing that collaboration is central to bringing new ideas to scale.

5.14 Enhancing respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians: Sharing good practices

21 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN

OCHA

Panelists:

Mr. Nazifullah Salarzai, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations

Mr. Philipp Charwath, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations

Mr. Charles Sabga, Deputy Head of Delegation and Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross Delegation to the United Nations

Ms. Nelly Sabarthes-Gasparinatos, Political Affairs Officer, Office of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict

Objective:

In his 2018 report on the Protection of Civilians, the UN Secretary-General painted a bleak picture of "immeasurable human and societal decimation." However, he also offered some glimmers of hope, noting that "there are practical steps that have been, and could again be, taken by parties to conflict and member States to respect and ensure respect for the law and enhance the protection of civilians." Some of these include national policy frameworks for the protection of civilians, limits on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, action plans between State forces and armed groups to end the recruitment and use of children, strict arms export controls based on the risk of serious violations of international humanitarian (IHL) and good practices in the protection of medical care. This event explored some recent and ongoing efforts to develop and adopt good practices to enhance respect for IHL and the protection of civilians.

Main points raised by panelists:

Mr. Salarzai reported that the percentage of civilian casualties attributed to Afghan government forces was decreasing, although the total number of civilian casualties had drastically increased due to the acts of other parties. He attributed the decrease to the 2017 National Policy on Civilian Casualty Prevention and Mitigation, which consists of specific guidelines for security forces to prevent and mitigate civilian casualties and harm to civilian property. For instance, the Policy prohibits the use of certain public facilities for military purposes (such as schools and hospitals), mandates training sessions for officers and establishes a system to track civilian casualties. It also establishes an internal board to investigate civilian casualties and a Civilian Casualties Avoidance and Mitigation Board.

Mr. Charwath described two pieces of Austrian legislation that aim to control the transfer of conventional arms based on IHL and human rights considerations, among others. The first example was the War Materials Act, which applies to all types of transfer of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons. It sets out transfer criteria that include factors such as the existence of armed conflict and the substantial risk of human rights abuses, among others. The second example was the Austrian Foreign Trade Act, which applies to small arms and light weapons and dual-use items. Its transfer criteria cover the risk of violations of IHL and human rights, of diversion and of organized crime, among other factors. The EU User's Guide to the Council's Common Position on arms exports sets out indicators to help assess many of these risks. Assessments are based on information gathered from open sources, such as media reports and NGOs.

Mr. Sabga described the range of impediments to medical care in armed conflict, including the targeting of hospitals, harassment of healthcare professionals, looting of drugs and medical equipment, and the criminalization of medical care in certain circumstances. Mr. Sabga described good legislative and other practices to protect and de-criminalize medical care. For instance, new legislation in Nigeria allows health personnel to treat gunshot victims without waiting for a police report, and outlaws the harassment of these personnel when they are doing so. In Pakistan, training for healthcare workers, public awareness-raising, and the involvement of psychologists and other community members, have collectively improved conditions for the delivery of medical care. Mr. Sabga also noted the good precedent found in Canadian and New Zealand legislation and in the European Commission directive on Counterterrorism, which exempt from criminalization acts that are in accordance with IHL. Mr. Sabga noted that much of the available good practice is equally applicable in situations of violence that do not amount to armed conflict.

Ms. Sabarthes-Gasparinatos outlined the mandate of the Office of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict, noting its work with over fifty armed groups, which is principally focused on pursuing action plans to end child recruitment. A range of measures aim to improve compliance by armed groups, including training, awareness-raising, as well as reform on matters of discipline and accountability. Approaches need to be tailored to each armed group, while seizing opportunities such as peace processes, when possible (e.g. in Colombia where children released from the FARC and reintegrated were treated primarily as victims and not combatants). Engaging communities, including youth and religious leaders, is key to enhancing the behavior of armed groups. Ms. Sabarthes-Gasparinatos noted that such work with armed groups is generally supported by governments.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

Participants discussed some additional good practices for engaging with armed groups in order to enhance the protection of civilians. For instance, armed forces and armed groups have adopted good military policy and practice to reduce the humanitarian impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Recently, G7 foreign ministers committed to practical measures aimed at promoting partners' effective implementation of IHL. Emphasis on local or national action was described as important for a tailored approach on the ground. Community outreach in areas beyond government access was also said to be critical; IHL should not only be a government responsibility, but a community responsibility. Outreach with traditional leaders, universities, schools and places of worship can have an impact on normative values. A number of participants stressed the need to engage in regular dialogue on compliance with IHL in order to share information and good practices. Some debate arose on the value of "naming and shaming" vs. apolitical and evidence-based engagement. Overall, participants described a wide range of practices to enhance the protection of civilians, including military, legislative, and community-based approaches.

5.15 From Joint Analysis to humanitarian, development and peace actors' collective outcomes – the Food Security and Nutrition Sector experience

21 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the UN

Permanent Mission of Zambia to the UN

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN

European Union

FAO

UNICEF

WFP

Panelists:

Ms. Monique Pariat, Directorate General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Chair

Mr. Bernard Biando Sango, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ms. Christine Kalamwina, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Zambia

Mr. Luca Russo, Senior Food Crises Analyst, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Mr. Claude Jibidar, Country Director, Democratic Republic of the Congo, World Food Programme (WFP)

Mr. Gianfranco Rotigliano, Director, UNICEF's Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Ms. Ms. Phoebe Girouard Spencer, Economist, Fragility Conflict and Violence Group, World Bank

Objective:

Reflecting on the growing needs highlighted by the Global Report on Food Crises 2018, this side event aimed to emphasize the importance of strengthening collaboration to address food crises between humanitarian, development and peace actors. The Global Report and the establishment of the "Global Network Against Food Crises" represent the first step towards enhancing the coordination of food security and nutritional analysis. Together, they help provide a common message that facilitates greater coordination in addressing these complex issues and advocating for high-level strategic buy-in to support the implementation of durable solutions to food crises. The event looked at the example of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to illustrate joint and complementary efforts at a country level to operationalize the humanitarian–development nexus within a food security perspective and in a conflict sensitive way. The case study from the DRC aimed to identify not only scalable best practice, but also the related challenges.

Main points raised by panelists:

Ms. Monique Pariat noted how the growing number of conflict settings globally are fueling heightened food insecurity, and being reinforced by climate change hazards and a lack of public services, as in the context of Mali. She noted the positive impact of the EU's 77-million-euro commitment in the DRC, explaining how such financial commitments can help tackle food security issues while also developing resilience-building. Ms. Pariat commended the Global Report on Food Crises as an example of independent data and analysis that can improve work across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus and facilitated common response. Finally, she emphasized how regularly updated food security and nutrition data will allow actors to prioritize the most relevant and appropriate responses, and support proper advocacy initiatives.

Mr. Bernard Biando Sango expressed his appreciation for the international community's provision of relief to vulnerable populations in the DRC. He commended the efforts of FAO, WFP and UNICEF towards integrating

resilience-building in humanitarian responses, noting key efforts in the South Kivu and Kasai regions by way of example. He noted that a person who is hungry is not at peace, and underscored chronic malnutrition and food insecurity as critical issues, particularly in conflict zones. The Minister called for heightened and integrated efforts to address malnutrition, resilience-building and peace-building in the DRC. He finally requested that all humanitarian and development actors work together towards holistic solutions.

Ms. Christine Kalamwina reflected on Zambia's contribution to the Global Report on Food Crises, and its commitment to engage more partners in joint efforts to address food insecurity. She noted that conflict and insecurity along with climate change and natural disasters are the primary drivers of food insecurity, especially in Africa, with the consequences lasting for years. A sustainable solution for food insecurity is therefore critical to the development context in Africa. In response, the Zambian government is partnering with the UN towards improving resilience in areas prone to disasters and affected by the impacts of climate change.

Mr. Luca Russo reflected on the Global Report on Food Crises as an example of the international community's efforts to monitor food security trends and to analyze and address their root causes. He noted that the number of food insecure people globally has increased in recent years due to severe and protracted conflicts and climate change, with some 74 million people estimated to be food insecure due to conflict, and 39 million due to climate change. Mr. Russo stressed that while humanitarian assistance is critical to save lives and livelihoods, it is not sufficient on its own if we are to effectively pull people back from famine. We must also address the root causes of crises. On this point, he gave the examples of South Sudan and Yemen, where humanitarian access is hampered due to an intensification of conflict. In response, he urged for the scale-up of successful initiatives and the employment of joint analysis to address root. Mr. Russo also emphasized that agriculture cannot be an afterthought in the process. He cited the growing number of actors engaged with the Global Network against Food Crises, noting its importance in promoting evidence-based recommendations to guide decision-making along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Mr. Claude Jibidar, speaking also on behalf of his FAO counterpart in the country, reflected on the centrality of agriculture in the DRC context, where much of the population access food, health and education based only what they produce themselves. The joint efforts towards improved food security and nutrition by WFP, FAO and UNICEF in collaboration with Government exemplified efforts to operationalize the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. FAO/WFP provision of food, seeds and support for small animal rearing are helping to create resilient climate-sensitive livelihood opportunities that can enhance food security and dietary diversity, reinforce social cohesion and contribute to sustaining peace efforts. These are reinforced through large-scale cash-based transfers for Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs), with support currently provided to over a million Kasai IDPs. Efforts are also being made to build stronger synergies between measures to address immediate food and nutrition needs, and longer-term development outcomes. Nevertheless, the situation remains precarious, with stronger partnerships between national and local government, UN agencies and civil society organizations required, alongside crucial multi-year donor assistance. He thanked Germany, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, France and Switzerland for their invaluable support in assisting more than 400,000 beneficiaries. Finally, he highlighted the need for expertise in microfinance, more systematic nutrition coordination, improved water and sanitation, and better access to health and school feeding initiatives. He emphatically stressed also the need for further funding; while the DRC accounts for 10% of humanitarian needs, it receives only 3% of the funding.

Mr. Gianfranco Rotigliano noted the sizeable nutrition challenges present in the DRC, with 43% of children under five stunted, rising to 53% in South Kivu. He reflected on the multi-sectoral program developed with the Government through the financial support from Switzerland, UKAID and USAID, and technical contributions from FAO and WFP, which integrates interventions across food security, water, hygiene, sanitation and nutrition. Efforts have shown some initial impact with reductions in the proportion of underweight children, and reductions in those suffering from acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition as well. Challenges noted during implementation included limited access, an unpredictable security situation, low coverage and the need for further investment in tracking all forms of malnutrition and sustaining coordination structures. Mr. Rotigliano noted also a number of positive outcomes of the integrated and coordinated response so far, including the achievements of greater efficiencies and sustainability, and an improvement in community ownership and commitment.

Ms. Phoebe Girouard Spencer reflected on the partnership with WFP, FAO, and others to establish a new model Famine Early Action Mechanism to improve responses. While noting the positive impact of information provision towards preparedness, a concern remained around the lag between a famine's declaration and the deployment of resources.

Key messages of the side event:

Panelists reflected on growing food insecurity, driven largely by conflict and climate impacts and the failure to address their root causes. They noted that approximately 74 million people are food insecure due to conflict, while 39 million remain so due to climate change, as detailed in the 2018 Global Report on Food Crises. They highlighted the critical role of such analysis to the creation of evidence-based integrated responses; ones that seek both development opportunities and peace dividends.

The ongoing efforts to operationalize the Global Network against Food Crises were seen as key to establishing a coordinated mechanism to put in place sustainable solutions to food crises. Panelists reflect on the positive outcome of integrated efforts undertaken in the DRC to stimulate local agricultural production and provide crucial cash assistance to over 1 million IDPs in the Kasai region. They concluded that integrated response efforts that aim to meet humanitarian needs while also creating opportunities for development have heralded impressive results. Not only have they reduced food and nutrition insecurity, but they have also ensured greater local ownership and a reduction in local drivers of conflict in agriculture-based societies. Given the scale and severity of the challenges in DRC's protracted humanitarian crisis, panelists called for additional attention and funding to further expand efforts to address root causes of malnutrition, hunger, and conflict in an ongoing precarious situation.

Main points raised during the discussion:

While recognizing that humanitarian assistance looks to meet immediate needs, there was a strong emphasis on the need to address the root causes of hunger, conflict, and malnutrition. This can be facilitated through a greater availability of information from critical sources such as the Global Report on Food Crises, as access to such information can raise awareness around the scale of the problem and its drivers, and enable evidence-based decision making.

At a field level, the discussion highlighted the positive impact of using multi-sectoral approaches implemented in a joined-up manner. This should be complemented at the headquarters level through greater collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors. Recent initiatives, such as the

Joint Steering Committee on enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation, are good examples of such collaboration.

Outcomes of the side event:

The side event provided an opportunity to raise awareness for and commitment to the need to address food insecurity and hunger in a more sustainable manner across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. In doing so, it placed a spotlight on the sizeable efforts and positive results seen in the DRC through joined-up efforts, while also highlighting the sizeable needs that still remain.

5.16 A Collective Effort of Leaving No One Behind: Strengthening Gender Equality Programming in Humanitarian Action

21 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the UN
European Union
UN Women (on behalf of the IASC Gender Reference Group)
Women's Refugee Commission
IASC GenCap Project
OCHA

Panelists:

Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator for UN OCHA
Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme for UN Women
H.E. Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations
H.E. Ambassador Joanne Adamson, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations
Ms. Deborah Clifton, IASC Senior GenCap Advisor
Mr. Omar J. Robles, Sr. Program Officer, Women's Refugee Commission
Ms. Brenda Moore, Founder of the Keep Project Liberia
Ms. Indai Sajor, IASC Senior GenCap Advisor

Objectives:

- Highlight the recent policy commitments made to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action by the IASC
- Outline the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within the humanitarian system to deliver on these policies, as well as the tools and resources that have been developed to help facilitate this action
- Address the collective efforts and challenges in enhancing gender equality programming in humanitarian settings by discussing tools to support gender responsive humanitarian action.
- Highlight the IASC GenCap Project and the role of local organizations in promoting gender-responsive projects.
- Galvanize collective support for the universal use of tools and gender-responsive projects in an effort to ensure accountability to gender equality programming across the humanitarian system.

Main points raised by panelists:

Ms. Ursula Mueller noted that humanitarian responses can only be effective if they deliver equally for women and men and girls and boys and empowers women and girls at every opportunity. . She acknowledged that since the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, there has been growing momentum around the need to deliver better for women and girls, and empower them at every given opportunity. Since the Summit, Government leaders, humanitarian actors and NGOs have made progress on delivering on the commitments they made to promote gender equality programming. However, we still need to do more, and do it better. Gender equality outcomes are central not only for delivering on the promises made at the World Humanitarian Summit, but also for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Yannick Glemarec mentioned that our duty is to guarantee assistance and protection to women, and to do so in an equitable way. However, support to women and girls is currently underfunded. Protection from trafficking is just as important as the need for food and shelter. The goal is to integrate gender into humanitarian action and the updated IASC policy on humanitarian action and updated IASC gender handbook provide a step-by-step guide to how one can integrate gender in the humanitarian response.

H.E. Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh relayed that ensuring collective efforts among humanitarian actors to strengthen gender equality programming in humanitarian action requires the proper implementation of policies and a commitment to accountability. Ambassador Nusseibeh also explained how gender equality is one of the UAE's key pillars of policy. During a panel series to identify solutions to reduce gender-based disparities, the UAE repeatedly found that explicit policies need to be implemented and supported at a governmental level. It is also important that the tools are operational. In terms of an accountability framework, the UN can then lead by example. She concluded that gender mainstreaming is too big a topic to fail.

H.E. Ambassador Joanne Adamson insisted that incorporating gender into humanitarian and development initiatives is no longer negotiable. 81% of the EU's humanitarian projects now integrate gender and age. The EU supported the revision of the IASC gender handbook, and there is a plea to humanitarian actors to make use of all IASC tools available. However, there is still a need to improve action on protection, as sexual and Gender-Based Violence is pervasive and life threatening. She cited The Call to Action on Protection against GBV in Emergencies as a good example of a multi-stakeholder initiative, stressing that gender issues will require such collective coordination.

Ms. Deborah Clifton said that the last twenty years have produced an abundance of tools, guidelines and markers for gender equality. There is no lack of buy-in, however, the gap is around how to then apply the tools and make use of available guidelines. She discussed the IASC Gender with Age marker, a new tool that was launched that day in coordination with IASC GenCap Project, EU and Oxfam that assists with the construction gender equality programming. The new tool helps deliver on priority commitments, and provides improved analysis, design and implementation. It also builds capacity in gender analysis, participation and leadership; strengthens accountability processes and mechanisms and results-based management for gender equality; and improves monitoring, evaluation, audit and reporting, in addition to coherence, coordination and knowledge and information. The IASC Gender with Age marker is already proving itself as a huge asset to actors seeking to construct effective gender equality programming.

Mr. Omar J. Robles noted that by using existing tools, humanitarian actors can bolster community engagement and reach girls that are the most vulnerable. The approach has five main steps, and each step has a tool and guidance and produces actionable information. The mission statement is to protect and improve the lives of women and children.

Ms. Brenda Moore urged that more direct funding to local organizations is required in order for women's groups to promote gender-responsive projects and for the humanitarian system to best support local women's organizations. The Ebola outbreak in Liberia showed that accessing resources through traditional methods was difficult due to the fact that they were set up and controlled by men. She described how her organization has established a network that strengthens the capacity of women in NGOs by allowing them to train each other and provide support and guidance. Looking forward, the international community must

increase its accountability to commitments made in humanitarian action; target and engage with women's groups; promote the equal representation of women partners in humanitarian response; and improve its collaboration with local NGOs.

Ms. Indai Sajor explained that the IASC GenCap Project plays a crucial role in strengthening gender programming on the ground by focusing on gender response through three avenues: leadership, partnership, and capacity building. GenCap Advisors provide technical support and strengthen leadership on gender and protection issues on all levels, including with governments. The project works to enhance partnerships by analyzing relationships between actors to achieve gender responsive programming. It also gives special attention to national women's groups. Furthermore, the IASC GenCap project provides training on humanitarian action and on the IASC gender with age marker in addition to the IASC gender handbook. Despite these efforts, there are still challenges in integrating gender programs in humanitarian response, especially when it comes to the allocation of resources for gender responsive programming in humanitarian action.

Key messages of the side event:

1. Gender responsive programming: The event highlighted the need to incorporate gender responsive programming into humanitarian action. Tools such as the Gender with Age Marker, IASC Gender Handbook, IASC Gender Policy in addition to the 'I am here approach' showed how one can practically integrate gender into humanitarian response. The IASC GenCap project is an effective means of support as Gender Advisers are being deployed to support the field in integrating a gender responsive approach.
2. Women's participation and leadership: Women need to be included in the response from the beginning, and should be able to take on leadership roles. There is still a need to ensure that local groups are on board and are considered legitimate voices in shaping humanitarian response.
3. Funding: There is still a lack of funding for measures to address gender issues, and for women's organizations working in the field. Only 0.5% of overall humanitarian aid is given to local women's organizations. Member States and humanitarian partners should increase funding to women's groups, gender equality programs and strategic gender initiatives such as the Call to Action on GBV in Emergencies and the IASC GenCap project.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants

1. Collaboration between actors strengthens humanitarian response.
2. It is important to enable not only female participation, but also female leadership.
3. A suggestion was made to launch the Gender with Age Marker initiative with companies and social sustainability professionals.
4. Sex and age disaggregated data is an important part of the response, but this data is not always collected.

Outcomes of the side event:

The event highlighted progress made towards incorporating gender in humanitarian response and focused on the need for collective efforts that enhance gender equality programming in humanitarian action. Tools such as the IASC Gender with Age Marker, IASC Gender Handbook, IASC Gender Policy and Accountability Framework, in addition to the 'I am here' approach, show how one can enable a gender responsive humanitarian response. Both organizations and Member States supported the use of proactive tools to deliver on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian action.

5.17 Building Acceptance for Safe and Sustained Access to People in Need

21 June 2018

Sponsors:

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

OCHA

Moderator:

Mr. Aurélien Buffler, Head of the Policy Advice and Planning Section, UN OCHA

Panelists:

Mr. James Munn, NRC, Director, NRC Geneva

Mr. Antonio Galli, UNICEF, Humanitarian Access Policy Advisor

Mr. Bastian Richter, Programme Criticality Secretariat, Programme Specialist

Ms. Ute Kollies, OCHA Mali, Head of Office

Objective:

One year on from the release of the study "Presence and Proximity – To Stay and Deliver, Five Years On", this side-event aimed to examine the progress made on its recommendations at both the normative and operational level. By using concrete case studies and examples from the panelists' respective organizations, the objective was to identify challenges and limitations to building acceptance in the new security environment, showcase best practices in terms of security and program management and propose avenues for cooperation among the relevant stakeholders.

Main points raised by panelists:

Mr. James Munn stressed the importance of operationalizing humanitarian principles and strengthening their practical understanding through tailored staff training. Ensuring the right person within the organization conducts negotiations to successfully gain access and acceptance is essential. NRC also highlighted the importance of creating an operating environment that is conducive to effective negotiation and sustained access. He noted that counterterrorist policies and the politicization of access have recently jeopardized humanitarian acceptance and perception. Working in hard to reach areas requires long term investment, a certain level of risk acceptance and a qualitative and strategic approach to program design. Support and understanding from the donor community is therefore essential. NRC illustrated its change of approach using DRC as an example.

Mr. Antonio Galli discussed the criticality of communication and advocacy in building acceptance and support for humanitarians' presence and programs. UNICEF uses large-scale perception surveys and opinion polls to measure acceptance, and focuses on creating locally tailored advocacy strategies to ensure the sustainability of programs. Echoing NRC, UNICEF highlighted the need to invest in building the capacity of internal resources to ensure staff proficiently communicate UNICEF's mandate and objectives to the community. Mr. Galli highlighted the need for investing over time in building acceptance. For instance, in the Philippines, UNICEF's long-term engagement with armed groups started with an immunization campaign which was used as an entry point to gain acceptance and build trust, leading subsequently to an action plan to end the recruitment of children.

Mr. Bastian Richter explained how the Programme Criticality (PC) exercise supports the UN field presence by looking at risk acceptance and the balance between risk mitigation and the need to stay and deliver. PC has been used in various countries (including Syria, Yemen, South Sudan and DRC) to inform decision-making on security risk acceptance, business continuity and preparedness planning. The emphasis was put on the distinction between the criticality and the importance of the project. While the PC exercise has proven to be an interesting tool for the UN to overcome a risk-adverse approach, more needs to be done to better assess who should stay behind in very high-risk environments and what are the relevant alternatives (risk transfer, remote management, etc.).

Ms. Ute Kollies highlighted the challenges faced by humanitarian workers in building acceptance using Mali as an example. The multiplicity of armed actors combined with the reluctance of some non-state armed groups (NSAGs) to engage with the humanitarian community remain a significant hindrance to sustained and quality engagement in Mali. While the UN system is currently constrained by internal security rules imposing the use of armed escorts, NGOs continue to deliver humanitarian assistance using community engagement and a low-profile approach as a means to sustain access. OCHA highlighted that coordinated approaches are essential. In this regard, OCHA Mali reiterated the importance of regular engagement with the community and conflicting parties in order to build confidence and sustain access. Negotiations require a multiplicity of skills and all staff have a role to play. This is a shared responsibility that should be mainstreamed across the organizations.

Key messages of the side event:

While there is no doubt that acceptance and understanding of the principles governing humanitarian action is fundamental to the effectiveness of humanitarian operations, there is no single remedy to increase humanitarian access and no blanket solution to resolve access constraints. Joint efforts are necessary to continue stressing and demonstrating that humanitarian assistance is neutral, impartial and prioritized based on needs. Panelists highlighted that gaining acceptance requires substantive investment on communication, community engagement and training. Strengthening respect for humanitarian principles and IHL, integrating security and programming and strengthening risk management are equally essential. Acceptance is a long term but necessary investment to ensure rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Main points raised during the discussion with participants:

The challenges of sustaining acceptance in the current security environment and the dilemmas faced by humanitarian organizations when negotiating access were discussed in detail. Emphasis was placed on how to extend the risk mitigation and prevention measures to national and local NGOs as first responders in and/or near the frontlines.

Outcomes of the side event:

The organizers of this side-event called for participants to disseminate and operationalize the recommendations of the Presence and Proximity report in their respective organizations. Member States and NGOs were encouraged to participate in further discussions on the respect for and operationalization of humanitarian principles as a pre-requisite to maintaining acceptance and sustaining access.

5.18 Linking Humanitarian Cash Transfers to National Social Protection Systems

21 June 2018

Sponsors:

Permanent Mission of Mali to the UN
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the UN
European Union
The Cash Learning Partnership
UNICEF
World Vision

Panelists:

H.E. Issa Konfourou, Permanent Representative of Mali to the UN
Ms. Monique Pariat, Director General, European Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office
Mr. Kevin Savage, Humanitarian Research Director, World Vision International
Mr. Manuel Fontaine, Director, Office of Emergency Programs, UNICEF
Mr. Seb Fouquet, Senior Humanitarian Adviser, Department for International Development
Ms. Lynn Yoshikawa, Regional Representative, The Cash Learning Partnership

Objective:

Most humanitarian action takes place in protracted crises, many of which experience recurrent and increasingly severe shocks due to both conflict and climate-related causes. As a result, there is rapidly increasing interest by governments and donors alike in building or strengthening social protection systems to protect the poorest and most vulnerable people. In this side-event, governments, UN agencies, NGOs and donors gathered to discuss opportunities, challenges and lessons learned on linking cash transfers in emergencies to social protection systems.

Main points raised by panelists:

Ms. Monique Pariat noted that with 80% of humanitarian assistance used in protracted crises, there is no choice but to think big. Humanitarians should have a longer-term vision to put the humanitarian-development nexus into practice. Humanitarians need to make the best use of cash transfers, which provide the opportunity to address more needs in a more efficient and effective way. Based on its extensive experience with cash transfers in countries including Somalia, Turkey, Malawi and Ethiopia, the EU learned that it is essential that humanitarian actors look at a national social protection system (if any exist) before setting up cash transfer programming. It is also very important for national social protection systems to be shock-responsive.

Mr. Kevin Savage discussed World Vision's research on the impact of unrestricted cash and vouchers on nutrition in Somalia. He explained how it has helped build the evidence base on the impact that cash transfers can have on child well-being. There is a range of opportunities for cash transfer programs to be better aligned with national social protection systems in the Somalia context, including through addressing inter-operability between and among government and humanitarian data systems; developing common targeting and cash transfer amounts among donors and implementing organizations; ensuring funding predictability through multi-year funding; and ensuring the alignment of humanitarian programming with Somalia's national development plan for social protection.

Ambassador Issa Konfourou referred to Mali's approach to addressing its crisis by strengthening the resilience of its population through social cohesion and using state resources for social protection programs. The World Bank supported Jigisemejiri ('Tree of Hope') social protection program targets 60,000 people with cash transfers to address basic needs, such as nutrition and education. Key challenges include how to end aid dependency of people in the long term; addressing long-term financing of Jigisemejiri and other social protection programs; and coordinating among diverse actors on common needs assessments. Trust among all actors is essential.

Mr. Manuel Fontaine said that when social protection systems do not exist, we must establish a system that can be built upon. UNICEF shared several examples of how it has done this in practice. In Yemen, for example, UNICEF used the same design, beneficiary list and cash transfer frequency as the pre-existing national social protection system, but adapted it to the emergency context. In Turkey, UNICEF mirrored a program by the government to target Syrian children attending school and used the same transfer amounts, although it used a separate registration, monitoring and delivery mechanism. It is imperative to have effective strategic and technical coordination. There is no 'one size fits all' approach – building or strengthening social protection systems must be based on in-depth country level analysis. And because this process takes time, there should be an emphasis on preparedness. Moving forward, the priorities are to: assess the social protection systems that exist for their capacity to be more shock-responsive; assess the risks of corruption; and go from asking ourselves 'why not cash?' to 'why not social protection?'

Mr. Seb Fouquet argued that, even though there is 'no size fits all' solution, the need to put people first and build trust among actors should always be a priority. Humanitarians should reflect on how cash transfer programs are designed and the long-term fiscal implications for governments. Cash is moving the conversation between humanitarian and development actors. Looking ahead, cash will intrinsically require all actors to work more closely together.

Key messages of the side event:

1. Preparedness is essential as it takes time to build relationships, policies, and systems that lay the groundwork for social protection systems that are shock-responsive.
2. Coordination, built on early and effective dialogue, between humanitarian actors, governments and finance institutions is essential to develop trust and coordination between siloed humanitarian and development mechanisms and funding streams.
3. There is no 'one size fits all' solution to linking humanitarian response to national social protection systems. Collaboration will vary and will be dependent on local and national capacities to establish, expand and coordinate social protection programs.