



DRAFT Programme (as of 21 June 2021)
Economic and Social Council
Humanitarian Affairs Segment
23-25 June 2021, Geneva
Preceded by the Transition Event on 22 June
All times listed are Geneva

On 20 April 2021, ECOSOC agreed (E/2021/L.14) that the theme for the 2021 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) will be “Strengthening humanitarian assistance to face the challenges of 2021 and beyond: mobilizing respect for international humanitarian law, inclusion, gender, innovation and partnerships.”

The 2021 HAS will be held from 23 to 25 June. Since 1998, the Segment has been an essential platform for discussing issues related to strengthening the coordination and effectiveness of the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including assessing progress and identifying emerging issues, obstacles and challenges. It also promotes the sharing of experiences and lessons learned at the national and regional level. The organization of the 2021 HAS will include an opening and closing including action on the draft annual ECOSOC humanitarian resolution, three interactive high-level panels, one high-level event, and seventeen side-events will be organized to complement.*

*On 22 June, the HAS will be preceded by the annual informal ECOSOC Event on the Transition from Relief to Development, which links discussions between the ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment and the HAS. The Transition Event will also be held in a hybrid format. Side events will take place virtually during the week, on 21-25 June.**

Monday 21 June 2021

1:00pm – 2:30pm
(virtual)

Side Event: Advancing the localization agenda: locally-led humanitarian action

2:30pm – 4:00pm
(virtual)

Side Event: Collective Efforts to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons Learned and Way Forward

4:00pm – 5:30pm
(virtual)

Side Event: Preventing and responding to gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts

Tuesday 22 June 2021

- 8:30am – 10:00am**
(virtual) **Side Event: *Impacts of COVID-19 on the protection of displaced children***
- 10:00am – 11:30am**
(virtual) **Side Event: *A multisectoral approach towards mental health and psychosocial support in humanitarian settings: needs, achievements and gaps***
- 11:30am – 1:00pm**
(virtual) **Side Event: *Fully protecting all: advancing access to COVID-19 vaccines for people on the move***
- 1:00pm – 2:30pm**
(virtual) **Side Event: *Human mobility in the face of the climate crisis: how prevention, protection and solutions can best respond to future trends***
- 2:30pm – 4:00pm**
(virtual) **Side Event: *Humanitarian financing in the current global environment: opportunities, challenges and lessons from the COVID-19 response***
- 4:00pm – 6:00pm**
[Hybrid: In-person/Virtual] **ECOSOC Event on the Transition from Relief to Development: *Preventing the looming risk of multiple famines and addressing rising acute food insecurity: taking action to save lives and reduce people's needs, risks and vulnerabilities through closer humanitarian, development and peacebuilding collaboration***

Today the world faces the looming threat of multiple famines and rising acute food insecurity. Conflict remains the overwhelming key driver of famine, with violations of international humanitarian law destroying objects indispensable to the survival of the civilians and preventing access to humanitarian assistance, including safe and affordable food, water, nutrition and protection. Famines are also the result of prolonged and protracted crises given lack of political solutions. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was seeing concerning levels of food insecurity. Acute food insecurity is sharply on the rise, particularly as the secondary impacts of the pandemic are reverberating globally. Food insecurity is further amplified by climate related risks and impacts. Droughts and floods are widespread further threatening food production. These trends must be reversed. Efforts are being made to better predict risks, share analysis, take more anticipatory approaches, and enhance collaboration across humanitarian, development, and peace efforts. Addressing root causes, risks and vulnerabilities is needed more than ever. Strengthening respect for international humanitarian law and facilitating humanitarian access is fundamental. Development efforts are essential to building resilience, supporting government and community actors, and helping withstand future climate-related and other shocks. Provision of basic services, including social protection, livelihoods support, nutrition, health, WASH services, investment in agriculture, addressing underlying inequalities and supporting durable solutions for displaced people will be important, in dialogue with national counterparts. The gender dimensions must be understood and incorporated throughout, including the critical role that women play in food systems. Funding is critical. The annual informal Transition Event will

draw from the experience of field practitioners, governments, and global thought leaders across the humanitarian and development and peace actors to explore concrete and actionable ways to avert famine, reduce famine risk, and reduce acute food insecurity and malnutrition.

Co-Chairs:

- H.E. Ambassador Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC
- H.E. Ambassador Mr. Sergiy Kyslytsya, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination, UN DCO

Panelists

- H.E. Mr. Ali Betti, High Commissioner for 3N Initiative, Niger Government
- Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
- Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme
- Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director - Geneva, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Ms. Dabagai Dabagai, Country Director - Nigeria, Action Against Hunger
- Ms. Muna Luqman, Executive Director, Food4Humanity

Day 1 - Wednesday 23 June 2021

8:30am – 10:00am
(virtual)

Side Event: *Education in Emergencies: disruptions and opportunities – how humanitarian crises affect children and youth and what we can do about it*

10:00am – 12:00pm
[Hybrid: In-person/Virtual]

Opening of the Segment by ECOSOC Vice-President for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, H.E. Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations

The Opening Session will reflect on the theme of the Segment “Strengthening humanitarian assistance to face the challenges of 2021 and beyond: mobilizing respect for international humanitarian law, inclusion, gender, innovation and partnership.” A panel of speakers will consider how today’s humanitarian landscape is impacting humanitarian needs, particularly in the face of primary and secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and climate change and foreshadow the actions that must be mobilized in solidarity with people in their darkest hours. It will outline key trends, look at how the sector has responded and continues to adapt, and discuss the way ahead.

Chair:

H.E. Ambassador Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Keynote:

- Mr. Johannes Matyassy, Deputy Secretary of State, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General (by recorded video message)

Panelists:

- Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- Ms. Inger Ashing, CEO, Save the Children International
- Mr. Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council
- Ms. Gloria Modong Morris, Executive Director, Titi Foundation
- Ms. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director - Programme, UNFPA
- Ms. Henrietta Fore, Executive Director, UNICEF (by recorded video message)

12:30pm – 2:00pm
(virtual)

Side Event: *Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Promoting Coordination and Coherence*

3:00pm – 5:00pm

High-Level Panel: *Health care in times of COVID-19: a global protection agenda*
[Hybrid:In-person/Virtual]

The COVID-19 pandemic poses major challenges and had profound impacts for people caught in humanitarian crises, including the disproportionate impact on women and girls and other vulnerable groups, as well as mental health and psycho-social impacts. The pandemic has also required health and humanitarian work to quickly adapt to reaching the most vulnerable and to shift the way it works. COVID-19 has shown how much the protection of and access to health care is a global concern and has illustrated vulnerabilities in health system capacities to respond. It underscored the essential work of health and humanitarian personnel and the centrality of protection and imperative for full respect for IHL. Serving the most vulnerable people in humanitarian settings and protecting humanitarian and medical personnel and facilities is crucial. The pandemic demonstrated the critical role of local actors in the health and humanitarian response as first responders and in reaching people in the face of movement restrictions. It demonstrated the enormous efforts of the humanitarian community to stay and deliver. And it laid bare the critical role of women as first responders, as well as the disproportionate secondary impacts on women and girls, including gender-based violence. The panel will examine the threats faced by people in need

and the health and humanitarian workers who serve them; due to health inequities and discuss some of the most urgent challenges, including vaccine equity and ensuring vaccines reach the most vulnerable people on the planet, as well as general access to basic health services in times of pandemic. Discussions will include ways to work more effectively with local actors, best practice in community engagement and risk communication, and partnering in vaccinating vulnerable communities. The panel will consider the gender dimensions and impacts of the pandemic, including the rise of gender-based violence, and drive for solutions. The panel will be an opportunity to focus on the how to forge a greater collective effort to address these challenges, as well as tackle health inequities, causing interrelated and compounding effects.

Chair:

- H.E. Ambassador Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham, Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panelists:

- Ms. Angeles Moreno Bau, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation, Spain
- Dr. Ibrahima Soce Fall, Assistant Director-General, Emergency Response, WHO
- Mr. Robert Mardini, Director-General, International Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC)
- Ms. Aine Markham, Vice President, Médecins Sans Frontières
- Dr. Jennifer Leaning, Senior Research Fellow, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, and GAAMAC Steering Group
- Ms. Florence Bua, Secretary for Woman's Affairs, Refugee Welfare Commission

5:00pm – 6:30pm
(virtual)

Side Event: *The challenges ahead: equipping the future with anticipatory action*

Day 2 - Thursday 24 June 2021

8:30am – 10:00am
(virtual)

Side Event: *Young people with disabilities and climate action: our voice count*

10:00am – 12:00pm
[Hybrid: In-person/Virtual]

High-Level Panel: *Innovation as a driver of change: the use of new and emerging technologies and humanitarian data*

In a fast-changing humanitarian landscape, new technologies offer an array of opportunities for humanitarian action to be faster, more accessible and more effective, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic and in other humanitarian contexts. The COVID-19 crisis forced humanitarians to adjust rapidly to be able to efficiently meet evolving and growing

needs. The use of new technologies and innovative techniques are key part of that adaptation. The panel will examine cases of the use of data to better predict and identify needs, new technologies to provide assistance safely and effectively, and new techniques that enable health and humanitarian workers to stay and deliver. At the same time, the panel will explore the risks associated with new tools and techniques, and in particular data protection risks, and discuss ways to combat phenomena like misinformation and disinformation. The panel will also draw on experience of how technologies can be used to reinforce and support local partners, and explore gender-responsive action.

Chair:

- H.E. Ambassador Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Ms. Wafaa Saeed, Director, Coordination Division, OCHA

Panelists:

- Mr. António Vitorino, Director-General, IOM
- Ms. Anna Ekeledo, Executive Director, AfriLabs
- Ms. Veronica Gabaldon, Executive Director, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation
- Mr. Lars Peter Nissen, Director, ACAPS
- Ms. Alexandra Bilak, Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

12:30pm – 2:00pm
(virtual)

Side Event: *Preventing, anticipating and reducing risks of climate induced disasters: why locally-led gender transformative actions matter*

3:00pm – 5:00pm

[Hybrid: In-person/Virtual]

High-Level Panel: *Humanitarian Action and Climate Change: Advancing anticipatory approaches, strengthening resilience and enhancing collaboration in response to the climate crisis*

Climate change is acting as a risk multiplier, exacerbating pre-existing inequalities, compounding instability and other drivers of risk, and further affecting the abilities of people and communities to cope with future shocks. For some, it is an existential threat. Despite increased investment and emerging practices in anticipatory approaches, humanitarian assistance is still mainly focusing on delivering aid after disasters strike. More focus is needed on strengthening prevention and preparedness, acting early and scaling up anticipatory action; reducing the risk of displacement; promoting durable solutions; multi-hazard risk approaches; reinforcing local approaches and community preparedness and resilience; and collaboration across humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts. The climate crisis has been one of the main drivers of increasing humanitarian needs over the last decade and this trend is expected to further escalate in the future. Increasingly severe tropical cyclones and flood and recurring droughts erode resilience, destroy livelihoods, fuel displacement and intersect with other drivers of conflict. In this context, existing

humanitarian capacities and available resources cannot keep pace. The panel will explore required actions to further advance the shift within the humanitarian system to more anticipatory action to better anticipate risks and needs, and to act earlier to prevent or mitigate impacts on lives and livelihoods. This will include a discussion on ways to scale up best practices and their enablers and address gaps and bottlenecks. The panel will also discuss opportunities to strengthen collaboration with stakeholders beyond the humanitarian community to reduce disaster and climate risks and impacts, strengthen multi-hazard preparedness for future shocks and prevent humanitarian emergencies, including through tangible measures for ambitious and accelerated climate action, resilient pandemic recovery and risk-informed sustainable development. Particular focus will be on the disproportionate impacts of disasters and climate change on women and girls, and on concrete actions to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance their role and leadership as an essential element of effective community resilience and local preparedness and response activities.

Chair:

- H.E. Ambassador Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Ms. Anja Nitzsche, Chief, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Branch, OCHA

Panelists

- Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Mr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director-General, African Risk Capacity Group
- Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
- Ms. Andrea Koulaimah, Director (Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission
- Dr. Daniel Clarke, Director, Centre for Disaster Protection
- Ms. Bolormaa Nordov, Secretary General, Mongolian Red Cross Society

5:00pm – 6:30pm
(virtual)

Side Event: Preventing famine and responding to extreme food insecurity in the COVID-19 era

Day 3 – Friday 25 June 2021

8:30am – 10:00am
(virtual)

Side Event: *Implementing International Humanitarian Law: innovative programming and best practices in the age of COVID 19*

10:00am – 12:00pm **High-Level Event on Gender Equality: *Leadership, decision-making, and participation of women and girls in humanitarian settings***
[Hybrid: In-person/Virtual]

Chair:

- H.E. Ambassador Ms. Pascale Baeriswyl, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator:

- Ms. Wafaa Saeed, Director, Coordination Division, OCHA

Panelists

- H.E. Ms. Irène Esambo, Minister Delegate for Minister of Social Affairs, in charge of People Living with Disabilities and Other Vulnerable People, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- H.E. Ms. Sally Mansfield, Australian Permanent Representative and Ambassador
- Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees
- Ms. Alice Shackelford, UN Resident Coordinator, Honduras
- Ms. Naima Ismail, Focal Point for UNSW Global Compact on Refugees Project and President of Somali Women’s Association Malaysia
- Ms. Leena Al Mujahed, Founder of the Yemeni Refugee Women Association
- Ms. Jigyasa Gulati, Youth leader, Global Compact Champion
- Ms. Ghofran al Shayeb, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

12:00pm – 1:30pm **Side Event: *Improving and safeguarding the humanitarian data ecosystem***
(virtual)

1:30pm – 3:00pm **Side Event: *Protecting children in situations where counterterrorism approaches are being implemented***
(virtual)

3:00pm – 5:00pm **Closing of the Segment, including action on the draft ECOSOC humanitarian resolution, and the voices of affected people.**
[In-person]

*The meetings of the event on transition from relief to development on Tuesday afternoon, 22 June, and of the HAS from the opening on Wednesday morning, 23 June to the morning of Friday, 25 June, will take place with in-person in Conference Room XX and virtual participation (“hybrid”) and will be webcast live on UN Web TV. The afternoon meeting on Friday, 25 June, to consider the ECOSOC humanitarian draft resolution and close the Segment, will be held as an in-person only formal meeting and participants can also follow the meeting on UN WebTV (webtv.un.org).

**Programme will continue to be updated ahead of the HAS. Please refer to the 2021 ECOSOC HAS website for updates (<https://www.unocha.org/ecosoc-2021>)