



OCHA United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs



WORLD BANK GROUP

2020 Washington D.C. Global Humanitarian Overview Launch

“Getting ahead of crises: Moving from reactive to proactive humanitarian action”

4 December 2019, 10:00-11:30, World Bank Group

Background

On 4 December 2019, OCHA and the World Bank will host one of five simultaneous launches to present the 2020 United Nations Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) in Washington DC. The GHO is the world’s most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based overview of the current state and future trends in humanitarian action and is published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

This event will take place as part of a global strategy to:

- Engage decision-makers and humanitarian actors in highlighting the key themes covered in the 2020 GHO;
- Amplify the voices of affected people;
- To encourage partners to contribute generously to humanitarian operations.

The event will be co-hosted by Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships, World Bank Group; and, Ms. Lisa Carty, Director, Humanitarian Financing and Resource Mobilization, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Format of Global Humanitarian Overview Launch Event

The event will begin with an introductory overview by Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, followed by a recorded message by the UN Secretary-General and a short film on the efforts of the international community to respond to crises over the last year.

Ms. Lisa Carty will present the latest trends, analysis, challenges and opportunities in humanitarian action including the impacts of UN-coordinated humanitarian action in 2019, as well as an overview of the coordinated plans for humanitarian response in 2020.

An interactive discussion will then follow, focusing on: “Getting ahead of crises: moving from reactive to proactive humanitarian action” one of the key themes featured in the 2020 GHO.

Each year, the international community responds to many humanitarian crises across the globe. By the end of September, the 2019 Global Humanitarian Overview had risen due to new crises; calling for US \$26.75 billion to support humanitarian assistance. While some crises are protracted and others are unforeseen, there are efforts to get ahead of crises that the international community knows will happen on a reoccurring basis. For example, in the recent report, “The Cost of Doing Nothing”, IFRC has estimated that by 2050, 200 million people every

year could need international humanitarian aid as a result of a cruel combination of climate-related disasters and the socioeconomic impact of climate change.¹

Too often, humanitarian programs only respond once visible evidence of impacts such as severe malnutrition and displacement are evident. However, progress in predictive analytics can help forecast and anticipate some types of looming crises. The world can then act to prevent the full costs of these shocks and mitigate their humanitarian impact. By doing so, we can save more lives, prevent suffering and protect development gains.

The panel will discuss a number of initiatives and efforts that are being pursued by international financial institutions, bilateral donors, the United Nations, think tanks and the NGO Community to move from a reactive to a proactive approach in humanitarian assistance.

Panel:

Admiral Tim Ziemer, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Ms. Lisa Carty, Director, Humanitarian Financing and Resource Mobilization Division, UN OCHA

Ms. Nancy Lindborg, President and CEO, United States Institute of Peace

Dr. Charles Owubah, Chief Executive Officer, Action Against Hunger

Moderator: Ms. Kimberly Flowers, Director | Humanitarian Agenda & Global Food Security Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Government officials, Congressional staff, humanitarian and aid agencies, diplomatic representatives, civil society, private sector, academia, and members of the press will be invited to the event and will have the opportunity to engage with the panelists on the topic.

The panel discussion will last approximately 90 minutes from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and will take place at the World Bank offices in Washington DC.

Join the conversation online! Follow #InvestinHumanity for all the latest updates on the 2020 GHO!

¹ “Executive Summary”. 2019. The Cost of Doing Nothing. International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Page 3.