



GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2021

UNITED NATIONS-COORDINATED
SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED
BY DISASTER AND CONFLICT



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid

This virtual event is co-hosted
by the **European Civil
Protection and Humanitarian
Aid Operations (ECHO)**

Brussels, 1 December 2020

Concept Note

Last updated: 27 November 2020

On 1 December 2020, the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)** and the **European Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)** will host one of five sequential launches to present the 2021 Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) in Brussels.

Background

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 OCHA.

The event will take place as part of global efforts to:

- Engage decision-makers and humanitarian actors in highlighting the key themes covered in the 2021 GHO;
- Amplify the voices of affected people;
- Encourage partners to contribute generously to humanitarian operations.

The virtual event in Brussels is co-hosted by **Mr. Janez Lenarčič**, European Commissioner for Crisis Management and **Mr. Mark Lowcock**, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

Programme

The event will run from 14:00 to 15:30 CET/Brussels time and is envisaged to be divided into two segments.

The first segment begins with welcome remarks from **Mr. Janez Lenarčič** (European Union Commissioner for Crisis Management), followed by a recorded message by **Mr. António Guterres** (UN Secretary-General), and a presentation by **Mr. Mark Lowcock** (UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator) who will present the latest trends, analyses, challenges and opportunities in humanitarian action, as well as an overview of the coordinated plans for humanitarian response in 2021.

The second segment will consist of a lively and engaging panel discussion on “***Achieving equality in times of adversity: assessing and responding to the needs of women and girls in humanitarian crisis***”.

The high-level panel will provide insights into the gender in humanitarian action and the role of women in humanitarian decision-making, according to the specific context and perception of donors, international and local NGOs, and UN agencies.

Gender equality is critical in humanitarian assistance as women, girls, boys and men are affected by crises in different ways. In most countries around the world, gender inequalities repeatedly make women and girls more at risk of experiencing protection concerns. Women and girls are also critical agents of change in their communities and have an important role in shaping humanitarian priorities and programming.

Even in non-humanitarian circumstances, women and girls face obstacles in terms of access to education, labour market, justice, and sexual and reproductive health; in addition to the social system, an increasing gender digital gap, lack of political representation, of social recognition, and risk of gender-based violence. In its diverse forms, gender-based violence increases in times of crisis, while negative coping mechanisms such as forced and child marriage and survival sex affect women and girls disproportionately. The current COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed that crises and lockdowns exacerbate structural gender inequalities, and reports have shown increased levels of gender-based violence. Likewise, women continue to be among the first responders on the ground in humanitarian emergencies, while steadily taking care of their children and families, thereby exposing them to increasing risks.

Humanitarian actors are increasingly recognizing and committing to acting on the need to design and deliver humanitarian aid in a gender-responsive manner. But how far have we come?

The moderated interactive high-level panel will be composed of five eminent panellists in the field of Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action and Gender-based Violence.

1. **H.E. Mr. Stephan Schönemann**, Under-Secretary for Development Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
2. **Ms. Paraskevi Michou**, Director General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO).
3. **Dr. Natalia Kanem**, Executive Director, United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)
4. **Ms. Veronica Ngum Ndi**, Founder/CEO, Community Association for Vulnerable Persons, Cameroon.
5. **Ms. Hala Abdelkhaleq**, Activist in the rights of people with disabilities, Jordan.

Ms. Sofia Sprechmann Sineiro, Secretary General, CARE International will moderate the session.

Government officials, Parliamentarians, humanitarian agencies, diplomatic representatives, civil society, private sector, academia and media will be invited to the event and will have the opportunity to engage with the panel speakers on the topic.

Closing remarks will be delivered a Representative of the European Parliament, DEV Committee of the European Parliament (TBC).

Logistics points

The launch and panel discussion will take place from 14:00 to 15:30 CET/Brussels time and the event can be followed here: <https://webcast.ec.europa.eu/update-on-gho-launch>

The focal points are:

- ECHO: Gérard Van Driessche, Gerard.Van-Driessche@ec.europa.eu
- OCHA: Karin Fenczak, fenczak@un.org

To register, please click [here](#) and for more information about the event, please visit the [GHO website](#).