

2021 Economic and Social Committee Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Humanitarian financing in the current global environment: Opportunities, challenges and lessons from the Covid-19 response

Development Initiatives and OCHA

Tuesday 22 June at 2.30-4pm GVA time/8.30-10am EST (link to join below)

This virtual side event will be convened on the margins of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), and will build on this year's HAS theme: *“Strengthening humanitarian assistance to face the challenges of 2021 and beyond: mobilizing respect for international humanitarian law, inclusion, gender, innovation and partnerships”*.

Background and objectives of event

Humanitarian needs and the financial resources to meet them have once again reached a record high – more than \$36 billion is required to assist 160 million of the almost 240 million in need. Last year's pandemic highlighted the unequal impact of the global pandemic on vulnerable communities in crisis contexts, the far-reaching humanitarian consequences of global recession and pressure on donor aid budgets, and the risks to progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite concerted efforts by donors and humanitarian partners to meet the growing needs, the gap between requirements and financial resources is enormous. At the same time, the pandemic and the challenges it presented vis-a-vis financing and delivering humanitarian aid has also provided opportunities to move forward several important humanitarian financing agendas.

Discussion points or guiding questions

This event will present an update of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO), including a review of the number of people in need across 57 countries covered by UN-coordinated plans and of funding gaps as of mid-2021. Several severely underfunded crises, along with priorities for the second half of the year, will be highlighted. Development Initiatives will present key trends in global humanitarian assistance, including how funding is being channeled in ways which allow effective, flexible response to crises. This presentation will be a preview of their 2020 Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report, a data-driven retrospective on collective humanitarian response in 2020.

The event will then explore the challenges and opportunities going forward. Donors and humanitarian agencies will share their experiences and perspectives on defining priorities and continuing to mobilise sufficient levels of resources given the current international and national constraints.

Key concrete action points and recommendations/take away messages

Concretely, the event will:

- Provide a retrospective of humanitarian funding trends, as well as an update of the current funding status of coordinated inter-agency plans to raise awareness of continually high humanitarian needs, funding gaps and urgent priorities.
- Examine existing opportunities in the humanitarian funding landscape for adaptation and collective advocacy for humanitarian plans, pooled funding mechanisms, and best practices to fund humanitarian crises, and promote system improvements and better coordination for funding to meet and reduce humanitarian needs.
- Reflect on the need for a strategic and coordinated approach to advocate for more quality funding, including cascading to local partners, speed and flexibility. In this regard, some of the main take-aways related to humanitarian funding of the recently-concluded Grand Bargain annual meeting will be presented.
- Highlight the importance of coordinating different types of financing (humanitarian and development) to address crisis needs.

Format of the side event

The event will consist of three sessions: 1) short findings presentations by OCHA (GHO) and DI (GHA), 2) moderated panel discussion with one round of prepared questions and responses, and 3) questions from the floor and responses. The event will adopt a participatory approach, enabling a broad exchange of good practices and diagnoses of challenges to mobilizing resources in the current context.

Chair and moderator

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

Panel composition

- Mr. Matt Kimmell, Global Affairs Canada, Director, Humanitarian Policy and Global Engagement
- Mr. Angus Urquhart, Development Initiatives, Crisis and Humanitarian Lead
- Ms. Cecilia Roselli, Norwegian Refugee Council, Director NRC Geneva
- National NGO (TBC)
- Representative of affected country (TBC)

Background Material

Documentation from OCHA and Development Initiatives will be available the week of the event.

Registration details to join the event

The event is open to all and a simple registration form is required to receive the Zoom link to attend.

Link to register: <https://devinit.org/what-we-do/events/humanitarian-financing-covid-19-response/>

Contact(s)

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