2015 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment
Interactive Dialogue on Humanitarian Financing

Thursday 18 June 2015, 10:00 – 12:15
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Rooms XIX, XXI and XXIII

This is an interactive dialogue convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment in support of its main theme: The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness. The outcomes of this dialogue will feed into the High-Level Panel discussion on Addressing Capacity and Resource Challenges through Humanitarian Financing.

Background and theme

The humanitarian landscape has changed drastically in the last ten years: there is more expertise, an increased understanding of the drivers of crises, the need to prepare to mitigate the consequences of disasters and the professionalization of services is allowing more people to be reached. Increasingly, the private sector, diaspora communities, national NGOs and local communities play important roles in meeting humanitarian needs. Innovation and new technologies – such as social media, the data revolution and the use of electronic cash transfers – are providing opportunities to enhance the speed in which we deliver aid. Despite these positive trends, the increasing complexity of crises, the ever more dangerous environment for humanitarian workers and skyrocketing funding requirements are stretching the capacity of the humanitarian system to an unprecedented extent. There is an increasing gap between resources available and capacity deliver, and the humanitarian community has reached a point whereby it is necessary to rethink some aspects of its architecture to ensure that the needs of people caught in crises are met. Beyond the well-documented “Relief-Development divide”, there are growing calls for a more inclusive humanitarian financing system. Some Member States are calling for greater transparency on the use of humanitarian funding in their countries, while national and international NGOs want more direct access to bilateral and pooled funding.

Against this backdrop, there are a number of processes that aim to reform the current modus operandi in the hope of making the humanitarian system – in particular financing – more flexible, accessible and effective. Some of these processes include work streams on the Future of Humanitarian Financing, the World Humanitarian Summit, the Financing For Development and the High Level Panel of the Secretary-General on Humanitarian Financing.

This workshop aims to tackle whole-of-system questions on the opportunities and challenges presented by current humanitarian financing modalities, using the findings and recommendations of the Future of Humanitarian Financing report and the Global Humanitarian Assistance report as starting point. Select panellists will present recommendations and key findings from both reports, with an ensuing discussion about challenges in humanitarian financing – namely localising response and ensuring access to flexible, predictable funding in acute crises – while also speaking about the opportunities afforded by global agendas to reform humanitarian financing. The outcome of these discussions will feed into the ECOSOC High Level Panel discussion on humanitarian financing as well as into the global processes mentioned previously.
Format

TIMELINE

SESSION 1: Panel Discussion (10.00 – 11:00)

Key note speech: Anke Reiffenstuel, Deputy Head Task Force Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Germany

Chair: Kyung-wha Kang, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA)

Panellists

• Sophia Swithern, Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Programme Manager
• Lydia Poole (FHF)
• Robert Piper, UN Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process & UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt)
• Claus Sorenson, Director General, ECHO
• Southern/operational representative (tbc)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Chair/Panellist</th>
<th>Focus of presentation/remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.00 - 10.05</td>
<td>Anke Reiffenstuel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Germany</td>
<td>Key note speech</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10.05 - 10.10 | Chair (Kyung-wha Kang, OCHA)         | Introductions
Overview of current situation regarding humanitarian financing (increased gap between requirements & funding). The scale of humanitarian needs calls for a different approach to the funding response. New and innovative sources of funding must be found and scaled up, and at the same time existing resources must be used more effectively.
A focus on localisation of funding.
Relevance of discussions on humanitarian financing to global processes (FFD, WHS, Sendai) & particular relevance of outcomes of this session to proceeding ECOSOC High Level Panel on humanitarian financing. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presenter/Contributor</th>
<th>Overview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.10 - 10.23</td>
<td>Sophia Swithern, GHA Programme</td>
<td>Overview of key up-to-date trends on humanitarian financing, drawing upon findings from the 2015 GHA report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.23 - 10.30</td>
<td>FHF SG member (Lydia Poole)</td>
<td>Overview of key issues on humanitarian financing, particular aspects of humanitarian financing for further consideration/discussion, relevance to global agendas, and relevant outcomes of FHF report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 - 10.37</td>
<td>Robert Piper (UN Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process &amp; UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt))</td>
<td>Responses to presentation from GHA and opening remarks from FHF on financing trends from an operational perspective (focus on the effective use of existing resources, sufficient funding to meet as well as recurrent costs and protracted crises e.g. Syria, Palestinian refugee crises).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.37 - 10.44</td>
<td>Southern/operational representative (tbc)</td>
<td>Responses to presentation from GHA on financing trends and opening remarks from FHF from the perspective of a Southern actor (focus on localising aid and more efficiency of humanitarian funding including moving towards a more proactive system; as well as diversity of funding).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.44 - 10.51</td>
<td>Claus Sorenson, Director General, ECHO</td>
<td>Responses to presentation from GHA &amp; opening comments from moderator on financing trends from an donor perspective (focus on linkages with development funding &amp; financing for risk and resilience).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:51 - 11:05</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Q+A with panellist, particularly for questions of clarification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05 - 11:10</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Wrap up and introductions to group work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SESSION 2: Break-out groups & sum-up (11:10 – 12:20)**

This is an opportunity for Panel Members and/or other key members of FHF core team/GHA to contribute and lead discussions.

**Group sessions (11:10 – 12:00)**

**Structure:**

- 10 min - introduction
- 30 min - discussion
- 10 min - decision on final group recommendations (groups should prepare to present 2 recommendations)

**Resources required:** Facilitator x2 (to also act as a resource person), and Rapporteur x1. Panel Members and other key members of FHF core team/GHA will also contribute to group discussions as relevant to their knowledge areas.
**Outcomes:** Each group will collectively decide upon 1-2 recommendations in response to the overarching questions framing their group’s discussion which the facilitator of each group will submit to the moderator who will briefly present a summary of recommendations to plenary before closing the session.

**Presentation of outcomes in plenary (12:00 – 12.10) – by Chair**

Facilitator of each group to submit one-two recommendations to global processes on area of discussion to the moderator at the end of the group session which will be summed up briefly by the moderator ahead of the closing statement.

**Closing (12.10 - 12.15) – by Chair**
**Theme A: Nationalising and Localising Humanitarian Response:**

What concrete information and recommendations can be fed to these global processes to find workable solutions to increase access to humanitarian financing for local and national actors?

**Theme B: The Development and Humanitarian Nexus:**

What concrete information and recommendation can be fed to these global processes to push for a more effective and clearer division of responsibilities between development, environmental and humanitarian actors?

**Theme C: Embracing diversity to ensure sufficient humanitarian funding:**

Building upon the evidence presented on the different resource flows in crisis affected countries, what concrete information and recommendations can be fed into these global processes to best harness the potential of increasingly diverse sources of finance for humanitarian response?

**Theme D: Moving towards a proactive ways of working to better meet peak demands:**

What concrete information and recommendations can be fed to these global processes to build on better anticipation and analysis of crises?

**Theme E: Upgrading the Humanitarian Architecture to address inefficiencies and strengthen needs-based funding**

What concrete information and recommendations can be fed into these global processes to ensure that the Humanitarian Architecture to address inefficiencies within humanitarian response and a more even coverage of needs?

**Cross-cutting considerations for facilitators to weave into discussions:**

- Relevance to protracted and rapid onset crises;
- How the response differs when considering different actors (governments, civil society and private sector);
- Considerations in different disaster contexts (e.g. Natural Hazards, Drought, Epidemics, Conflict)
- What is necessary in contested settings;
- Identify recommendations that can feed into global processes – i.e. FFD, WHS.