Responding to tomorrow’s challenges: Financing local and national humanitarian capacity

Sponsors and Organizers:
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date and Time: Wednesday, 21 June 2017, 13:15 – 14:45
Room XXII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme: Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.

Background and objectives

Under the umbrella of the Grand Bargain, governments and international organizations have committed to “increasing and supporting multi-year investment in the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response and coordination capacities, especially in fragile contexts and where communities are vulnerable to armed conflicts, disasters, recurrent outbreaks and the effects of climate change”.

This commitment represents a major departure for the humanitarian system, requiring new ways of working for donors and actors at all stages of the aid chain. The localisation work stream of the Grand Bargain, co-led by the Swiss Government and IFRC, has convened a series of meetings and activities to strengthen understanding of how this commitment can be achieved in relation to local and national responders, which has highlighted a paucity of understanding of capacity strengthening and difficulty in financing capacity investment. HAS is an opportunity to broaden this conversation across the humanitarian system and explore these issues further, giving practical examples on organisation development that support local humanitarian actors to contribute more effectively in meeting current humanitarian needs, as well as to the wider 2030 Agenda.

The IFRC is committed to deliver against the Grand Bargain’s endeavour to promote greater institutional capacities of local and national responders and to increase the humanitarian sector’s capacity to cover more needs through an expanded, principled and efficient humanitarian response. With this event, governments, private sector, and development actors will have the opportunity to highlight their own contributions to investing in local and national capacity and how these best practices can reduce outstanding need and diminish current – as well as future – vulnerabilities.
**Discussion points**

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions and discussion points:

- This event will explore the challenges and opportunities of investing in local and national humanitarian actors to strengthen their capacity for effective prevention, preparedness and response.
- It will draw on recent humanitarian crises to illustrate learning and good practice in building strong sustainable local and national organizations, capable of delivering on their mandate and relevant in their own context;
- This event will explore how these objectives can be better financed, from a variety of perspectives: government, multilateral/IFI, private sector, and local and national actors themselves.

**Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**

The intent of this event is also to promote and encourage the effective implementation of the Grand Bargain commitments, through supporting the humanitarian community to move forward on developing a common understanding on capacity investment. Through an interactive discussion, the panellists will bring forward good practice on how best to finance capacity strengthening, therefore moving forward from written commitments to effective empowerment and concrete support to local and national responders.

**Format**

(Co-)Chair(s):
- **Opening Remarks**: Red Cross Red Crescent video clip

Moderator:
- **Saba Al Mubaslat, CEO, Humanitarian Leadership Academy**

Panel composition:
- **Ms Mabel Koketso, Secretary General, Botswana Red Cross**
- **Mr Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President 2030 Agenda, UN Relations and Partnerships**
- **Mrs. Anne Street, Head of Humanitarian Policy, CAFOD**
- **Mr David Nash, Zurich Foundation Manager**

**Background Material**


**Contact**

For more information, please contact:

*Anne de Riedmatten, Senior Officer, Intergovernmental Advocacy, IFRC ([anne.deriedmatten@ifrc.org](mailto:anne.deriedmatten@ifrc.org); +41 (0)79 561 0466)*