

**Building a Better Tomorrow:
Challenges and Opportunities for Human
2 February 2016, 10 am – 12pm
Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

Background

Humanitarian action has saved countless lives and provided basic services like food, shelter and water for millions of crisis-affected people around the world. Today, however, it is becoming evident that meeting short-term needs is no longer enough, as cycles of conflict and disasters displace millions, the cost of providing assistance is increasing, and many are left vulnerable and in need of humanitarian action for decades, and in some cases, for generations. In 2014, the humanitarian community targeted more people than ever before (76 million), and it received more funding than ever before (\$10.8 billion through interagency appeals, \$24.5 billion overall). Protracted, conflict-driven emergencies are becoming the norm, and humanitarian actors have taken on a wider range of roles: addressing prolonged displacement; filling gaps in social safety nets; promoting preparedness; coping with the changing nature of violence and new hazards; and facing urbanization and climate-driven crises. In total, 59.5 million were forcibly displaced by conflict or violence in 2014, with an average 30,000 new displacements per day. The overall number of people affected by natural disasters or displaced by conflict increased in 2014 to 200.5 million, an increase of more than 50 million from 2013.

What are the trends that are leading to these dramatic figures, and what can humanitarians do to increase their effectiveness in light of these challenges? This launch event explores both the recent trends in humanitarian need, as well as some of the new solutions being proposed to address it. The event will launch two studies:

1. *World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2015*, which helps create an evidence base for policy makers, researchers and humanitarian practitioners by presenting major trends in the nature of humanitarian crises, their underlying causes and drivers, and the actors that participate in prevention, response and recovery. The 2015 edition covers two main areas: humanitarian needs and assistance in 2014, and humanitarian trends, challenges and opportunities. Highlights include case studies on cycles of displacement, online volunteer communities and the response to the Ebola crisis and the use of explosive weapons. This edition also features a new section on regional perspectives, which showcases region-specific trends in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa.
2. *Leaving no one behind: humanitarian effectiveness in the age of the Sustainable Development Goals*, explores what “humanitarian effectiveness” means today, focusing on ways to work better together to meet the needs of people in crises, and to move people out of crises. The study explores 12 elements that are critical to effective humanitarian assistance and protection, and highlights five shifts in mind-set and approach that can contribute to moving people out of crisis. The study also calls for the adoption of a new accountability framework to promote and measure progress in improving humanitarian effectiveness.

Together, the two studies provide a snapshot of the challenges we face today, while guiding us towards building a better tomorrow.



Objectives of launch event

- To present the latest trends and their implications from World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2015;
- To link these trends to the five shifts from *Leaving no one Behind* and show how evidence can support programming can take shape “in the real world,” moving the discussion from the world as it is today, to the changes necessary to build an accountability framework.

Format

The director of OCHA-Geneva, Rudolf Muller, will open the event. The launch event comprise an opening address by the Assistant Secretary-General followed by a moderated panel discussion with 4-5 representatives, who can each take one trend and its corresponding shift(s), moving onto talk about the challenges/practicalities of implementing an effectiveness framework. After providing some initial statements in response to the moderator’s questions, panelists will move into a discussion, which will eventually bring in questions from the audience and Twitter. Logistics will be supported by colleagues in Geneva from the Partnerships Coordination team, focal point: Arindom Mookerjee.

Time and location

The event will take place on 2 February 2016 in room XVII at the Palais des Nations starting at 10am. The event will coincide with the conclusion of humanitarian partnerships week in Geneva.

Panelists (TBC)

Panelist	Focus for discussion
Sophia Swithern, Global Humanitarian Assistance/Development Initiatives	Moderator
Nick Stockton or Justin Ginnetti , IDMC (IDMC has confirmed participation, they need to finalize names)	Data on displacement, global challenges driving need and how to move to 360 degrees of humanity
Hadeel Ibrahim, Mo Ibrahim Foundation and member of High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing	How to finance an effectiveness framework and how to localize action
David Walton, Thoughtworks	Localizing humanitarian action in the most challenging places – what does it take?
Rick Brennan, Director, Department of Emergency Risk Management and Humanitarian Response, WHO	Using imperfect data for decision making (Ebola response) – and new communities of practice. How can new partnerships feed into the effectiveness framework?
Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief PDSB, OCHA	Overall shifts required to implement effectiveness framework

Annotated Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Details
10 am	Doors open	Panelists and participants get seated
10:05	Welcome	Rudolf Muller, Director a.i., OCHA-Geneva The director will introduce the objectives of the event, the moderator and will introduce ASG Kang.



10:10	<i>Introduction and setting the scene: 'Building a Better Tomorrow'</i>	<i>ASG Kyung-wha Kang will provide a short overview of the studies, highlights and the challenges of implementing an effectiveness framework.</i> <i>She will then hand the floor to the moderator for the panel discussion.</i>
10:20	<i>Beginning of panel discussion</i>	<i>Moderator introduces panelists, asks opening questions</i>
10:25-11:00	<i>Moderated discussion on the current humanitarian landscape and effectiveness policy shifts</i>	<i>The moderator will initiate discussions by inviting two panelist to speak for 5 minutes each on current trends in humanitarian action, based on WHDT2015.</i> <i>Following these trend analyses, the moderator will call on two panelists to discuss new solutions/approaches to meet current challenges.</i>
11:00-11:40	<i>Open discussion</i>	<i>The moderator will invite questions from the audience and Twitter to continue the discussion</i>
11:40-12:00	<i>Conclusion</i>	<i>The moderator will conclude the event, summarizing key discussion points and inviting panelists to make any final observations</i>