2017 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Synthesis

This report was developed by OCHA Policy Development and Studies Branch (PDSB).
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This is a synthesis of the 2017 Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is not a record of the proceedings. Side-events summaries were provided by the respective side-event organizers and subsequently edited to provide consistency.

The Segment was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC. Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and his team in OCHA’s Policy and Development Studies Branch, organized and facilitated the Segment. The organization of the Segment included engagement from Member States; departments of the UN Secretariat; humanitarian organizations (UN agencies, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations), including members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee; civil society organizations; private sector; academic institutions; and affected people. We thank all for their contributions to the ECOSOC HAS and this synthesis.
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1. SUMMARY

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) took place from 21 to 23 June 2017 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC.

The ECOSOC joint informal event of the operational and humanitarian affairs segments on the transition from relief to development titled “Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in crisis contexts” preceded the Segment and was co-chaired by the Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz and H.E. Ambassador Christián Barros Melet. The three-hour panel discussion focused on how the Agenda 2030 is being leveraged in crisis and post-crisis contexts to ensure that the UN and its partners reach those hardest by conflict through the New Way of Working, and fulfil the commitment made in Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.

Under the theme ‘Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability, this year’s HAS included three high-level panels and twenty-three side-events. A high-level event on famine prevention and response took place on 21 June before the official opening of the HAS. This event focused on what has been done and is further required to ensure an effective response, including humanitarian assistance and longer-term support, to scale up action to meet the needs on the ground and reduce future needs, risks and vulnerabilities. The United Nations, partners and Member States took stock of their collective response to the Secretary-General’s call to action to respond to and prevent famine in North-East Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. Participants provided reflections on key accomplishments of the response over the past four months, ongoing challenges and constraints, and actions required to strengthen the response, including closing funding gaps.

The high-level panels focused on the following key issues:

- The high-level panel on “Reaching people in need and promoting respect for international humanitarian law and the humanitarian principles’ focused on how to enhance the protection of civilians in complex emergencies and examined practical steps and measures of influence to ensure better respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles to enhance the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the protection of civilians more generally. The primary responsibility of states to abide by and ensure respect for international humanitarian law, even when they are not parties to a conflict, was stressed. Panellists also highlighted the importance to create an environment that allow humanitarian organizations to engage with non-state actors.

- The high-level panel on “Protracted crises: meeting and reducing needs, risk and vulnerability” discussed the drivers of protracted humanitarian crises, its challenges, and possible ways forward, including approaches that would meet people’s needs while
systematically reducing need, risk and vulnerability. The discussion benefited from lessons learned from Colombia and Ethiopia. The New Way of Working (NWOW) was highlighted as an opportunity and suitable approach to tackle risk and vulnerability. The main challenge in protracted crises is to provide immediate response while strengthening systems and normative frameworks that allow people to respond to their needs in the long term.

- The high-level panel on “Addressing humanitarian challenges linked to disaster and climate-change induced mobility” underlined the critical importance of addressing disaster and climate change induced mobility. The discussion recognized the complex and cross-cutting nature of the challenge of disaster and climate-change induced displacement. It was noted that while such displacement can often be sudden, it is often cyclical in nature and can also be driven by slow onset causes all of which have implications for our ability to prepare and respond. It was further noted that disaster and climate change-induced mobility was likely to become increasingly prevalent and acute. It was emphasized that meeting the challenge requires an approach that brings together the expertise and resources of both the public and private sector.

The Segment was enriched with twenty-three side-events organized by Member States and humanitarian partners, which reflected many of the key themes of the Secretary-General’s report on Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations and the Agenda for Humanity. Side-events included topics such as displacement; humanitarian financing; advancing the Agenda for Humanity; localization; women and girls in the context of crisis; advancing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action; human trafficking and innovation.

The Segment also included several exhibits which highlighted critical innovations and the tools being used in humanitarian crises to meet needs, alleviate suffering, and capture data.

During the General Debate, Member States and other stakeholders referred to the importance of leveraging humanitarian and development tools, the need for collaboration to address and reduce needs and vulnerabilities and expressed support towards the New Way of Working and its implementation—while ensuring strict adherence to humanitarian principles. The unprecedented levels of humanitarian need and the alarming rise of conflicts; the risk of famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and north-east Nigeria; and the record high levels of forced displacement, were also highlighted. Statements called for greater compliance and strengthened respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law and accountability for violations. Several countries stated the importance of humanitarian assistance remaining neutral and impartial and in line with General Assembly resolution 46/182. Several speakers noted that greater political and financial investment in prevention is critical, including more risk-informed approaches to disaster management as well as conflict prevention and mediation. A lack of political solutions is driving needs and increasing the costs of humanitarian work and humanitarian assistance alone cannot solve crises. Many delegations highlighted how they are upholding their commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit.
The Segment concluded with the adoption of a consensus resolution on *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations* (E/RES/2017/L.24). Co-facilitated by the Philippines and Switzerland, the 2017 ECOSOC resolution will feed into the humanitarian omnibus resolution during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.
The report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance. The report is also submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 71/127 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/9. The period covered by the report is from January to December 2016.

The report provides an overview of humanitarian response to complex emergencies and disasters associated with natural hazards in 2016, as well as the coordination for health emergencies. As humanitarian needs escalated in 2016, a growing financial gap limited the response. The United Nations and its partners targeted a record 96.2 million people in 40 countries for humanitarian assistance. Coordinated inter-agency humanitarian appeals were the largest ever, at $22.1 billion. Donors responded with $12.6 billion, the largest provision of humanitarian funding ever, but a 43 per cent funding gap remained.

The number, intensity and length of conflicts displaced an unprecedented number of people. Forced displacement remained at record levels, with more than 65 million people displaced by conflict, violence and persecution around the world. Millions more people were displaced by disasters associated with natural hazards, with an average of more than 25.4 million people displaced each year since 2008. In 2016, 297 natural disasters affected 377 million people and caused $92.4 billion in damage.

Climate change and changing weather patterns are increasing the frequency, intensity and cost of disasters. Global food insecurity reached unprecedented levels by the end of 2016, exacerbated by conflict and the El Niño phenomenon and compounded by climate change. Some 70 million people across 45 countries are estimated to require emergency food assistance in 2017, including more than 20 million people in north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen who are facing famine or are at risk of famine.

The report emphasized the new opportunities that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the New Urban Agenda, and the World Humanitarian Summit provide to further enhance humanitarian action. It gave an overview of humanitarian emergencies in 2016, including four Level 3 emergencies (Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Iraq and South Sudan). It outlined key efforts to meet needs and reduce need, risk, and vulnerability by upholding norms (e.g. the centrality of protection), leaving no one behind (e.g. the effects of displacement and protracted crises), working differently (e.g. anticipating crises, managing risks, and strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus), and financially investing in humanity (e.g. innovative financing).

Finally, the report provided a set of recommendations addressed to Member States, the United Nations and its partners, humanitarian and development organizations, international organizations and civil society, non-State armed group, all parties to armed conflict, and other...
relevant actors. The recommendations aimed to promote and ensure full respect for and adherence to the international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and respect for the humanitarian principles to increase inclusivity, decrease displacement, and further strengthen the normative framework for humanitarian action and the coordination of the emergency assistance of the United Nations.
3. OFFICIAL PROGRAM

3.1. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL EVENT TO DISCUSS TRANSITION FROM RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT: “ADVANCING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CRISIS CONTEXTS”

21 June, Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The ECOSOC joint informal event of the operational and humanitarian affairs segments on the transition from relief to development titled “Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in crisis contexts” took place on Wednesday 21 June 2017 in Geneva. The three-hour panel discussion centered on how Agenda 2030 is being leveraged in crisis and post-crisis contexts to ensure that the UN and its partners reach those hardest by conflict through the New Way of Working, and fulfill the commitment made in Agenda 2030 of leaving no one behind.

Acknowledging that sustainable peace is both an enabler and an outcome of sustainable development, the discussion focused on how Governments, UN entities and partners can work jointly towards collective outcomes, based on shared analysis, in a manner which enables joined up planning and programming, building on the comparative advantage of multiple stakeholders. A wealth of experience, good practices and innovative financing mechanisms to bridge the divide between peace, humanitarian, and development work in crisis and post-crisis contexts was presented. The event also showcased how the Agenda 2030 can be used as an enabler for more partnerships in multi-actor peace, humanitarian and development environments. The need to expand pooled, flexible financing mechanisms to enable coherent planning and prioritization at the national level was highlighted.

The panel, co-chaired by the Vice-Presidents of ECOSOC, H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz and H.E. Ambassador Christian Barros Melet, and moderated by Ms. Maria Luisa Silva, Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva, included Dr. Seglaro Abel Somté, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Development in Burkina Faso; Ms. Metsi Makhetha, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Burkina Faso; Mr. Dominique Favre, Deputy Assistant Director General at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; H.E. Virginie Mbaikoua, Minister of Social Affairs and Reconciliation of the Central African Republic; and Ms. Najat Rochdi, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and UNDP Resident Representative in the Central African Republic.

Concerning Burkina Faso, the panel reflected on joint efforts by the Government and the international community to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition, create conditions for sustaining peace and support the implementation of a national economic and social development plan. Emphasis was placed upon the delivery of basic services for the most vulnerable and hard to reach areas, the need to engage early with national and local actors and the importance of developing recovery and development frameworks based on joint risk and vulnerability analysis over multi-year timeframes. The UN in Burkina Faso is rolling out a new UN Development Assistance Framework cycle to operationalize this new way of working in line with Agenda 2030 and the Sustaining Peace resolutions.
Concerning Central African Republic, the panel discussed how siloed and sequenced approaches to meet humanitarian needs, address internal displacement and promote peace consolidation are no longer tenable. The importance of aligning national and international strategic planning and programming to prevent suffering, save lives, and build more just, inclusive and sustainable societies was outlined. The discussion highlighted new financing mechanisms between the Government, the UN and the World Bank Group demonstrating cross-UN system collaboration in support of the implementation of the national recovery and peacebuilding plan with a view to reducing humanitarian needs, building the self-reliance of communities and promoting peace consolidation and stability concurrently.

3.2. OPENING SESSION
21 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations in New York and Vice-President of ECOSOC, provided an overview of the schedule of the ECOSOC HAS, highlighting the themes of the three high-level panels and the twenty-three side events. He also gave an overview of humanitarian needs today, including the critical issue of lack of access to people in need as well as the priority need to address root causes of crises, identify and address funding gaps, and increase respect for international humanitarian law. He highlighted that 65.5 million people are currently displaced because of conflict, natural disasters, and the impact of climate change and that without urgent humanitarian action many more could be displaced.

Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), thanked the Philippines and Switzerland for co-facilitating this year’s ECOSOC resolution on ‘Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations’ and highlighted that the ECOSOC HAS is an important opportunity to discuss the pressing challenges we face and look at how we can work together to save lives; protect people; and reduce risk, needs and vulnerabilities. Mr. O’Brien then provided an overview of humanitarian crises today, highlighting the overall level of humanitarian need. He also discussed urgent issues of displacement, including displacement as a result of natural disasters and climate change; protracted crises; and the impact of violations of international humanitarian law. He highlighted the pressing need to support the New Way of Working, political solutions to conflict, and more funding to local actors and for marginalized groups. Mr. O’Brien stated that the HAS’ theme builds on discussions held at and the momentum created around the World Humanitarian Summit and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.3. GENERAL DEBATE
21 and 23 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

During the General Debate, Member States and other stakeholders held a general discussion on the HAS theme of ‘Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability’.
Key issues raised during the General Debate include:

- The unprecedented level of humanitarian need and the alarming rise of conflicts; the risk of famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and north-east Nigeria; and record high levels of forced displacement.
- Calls for greater compliance and strengthened respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law and accountability for violations.
- Several countries stated the importance of humanitarian assistance remaining neutral and impartial and in line with General Assembly resolution 46/182.
- References in relation to resilience and leveraging humanitarian and development tools and collaboration to address and reduce needs and vulnerabilities were made and support for the New Way of Working and its implementation—while protecting strict adherence to humanitarian principles—was expressed.
- Funding needs to be increased to close the gap in the appeals system, with a focus on increasing flexible and/or un-earmarked funding; numerous references were made to this issue in the context of the Grand Bargain and the wider World Humanitarian Summit. Support for the CERF and country-based pool funds (CBPFs) was reiterated.
- Greater political and financial investment in prevention, including more risk-informed approaches to disaster management as well as conflict prevention and mediation and the need for political solutions in recognition that humanitarian relief alone cannot solve crises, were also stressed.
- Support was expressed for the Secretary General’s UN reform agenda.
- Several delegations stated strong support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- The importance of resilience building and the implementation of the Sendai Framework was highlighted as a way to mitigate the impact of disasters and achieve sustainable development. Examples of domestic and international work to build resilience and better align development and disaster risk reduction plans with the Sendai Framework were given.
- A number of delegation emphasized the need to empower women and girls in humanitarian action, ensure the protection of women and children during crisis, and integrate a gender perspective throughout humanitarian action.
- The importance of the ongoing negotiations over the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Migration was stressed.
- Member States and other stakeholders noted how they are upholding their commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit.

### 3.4. CLOSING SESSION
23 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

In his closing statement, Mr. O’Brien noted that we are at a pivotal time where systematic change through the implementation of the Agenda for Humanity, including of the New Way of Working, and the adoption of a strong preventative approach are being put into practice to ensure that we can more effectively respond to the immense scale and scope of humanitarian challenges. He commended Member States on reaching consensus on the resolution and the progress that
has been made. He highlighted how during the three days of the Segment everyone helped to lay the solid platform to deliver even better humanitarian action to the most vulnerable people on the planet.

Ambassador Schulz then highlighted several themes that appeared throughout the Segment, including: 1) the critical need for greater political and financial investment in prevention, including more risk-informed approaches to disaster management as well as conflict prevention and mediation; 2) the urgency to address the staggering level of humanitarian need through new, innovative approaches and tools; 3) limited humanitarian access and lack of respect for international humanitarian law; and 4) the large humanitarian funding gap. It was crucial that discussions continue and are translated into concrete actions that help to alleviate suffering and both meet and reduce humanitarian needs.
3.5. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: “REACHING PEOPLE IN NEED AND PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES”
22 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Chair: H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator: Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:
- Mr. Olabisi Dare, Head, Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons Affairs Division, African Union Commission (AUC)
- Ms. Elisabeth Decrey Warner, President, Geneva Call
- Ms. Helen Durham, Director, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Mr. Bruno Jochum, Director General, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland
- Mr. James Munn, Director of Humanitarian Policy, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, opened the discussion by highlighting that rapid, unimpeded and sustained access is critical to effective humanitarian response. Violence against humanitarian workers and assets continues to impede humanitarian activities in situations of armed conflict. The politicization of humanitarian action affects the ability of humanitarian actors to reach affected populations in a safe, predictable and principled manner. He recalled the launch that same day of the study entitled “Presence and proximity: to stay and deliver, five years on” - commissioned by OCHA, The Norwegian Refugee Council and the Jindal School for International Affairs - which stressed the importance for humanitarian organizations to gain the acceptance of parties to conflict. Member States must not impede humanitarian actors’ efforts to interact with all relevant parties, including non-state armed groups, so that they can operate in areas under their control. All States are bound/obligated to ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances. Mr. O’Brien urged those with influence over parties to conflict to exert their influence to ensure respect for IHL.

Ms. Durham (ICRC) noted that parties to conflict bear the first responsibility to meet the basic needs of the population under their control. Impartial humanitarian organizations have the right to offer their services to carry out humanitarian activities, particularly when the needs of the people are not fulfilled. Parties to a conflict and all States are expected to facilitate passage and access to affected populations.

Mr. James Munn (NRC) highlighted that the application of the humanitarian principles presents important challenges, especially related to access. Discussions on access should take place at different levels, including the field. Operationalizing principled humanitarian action in the field takes time and demands particular skills.
Mr. Dare (AUC) noted that conflicts in Africa have translated into forced displacement. The African Union has policy and legal instruments to forge a common understanding of the application of IHL norms. In particular, the Kampala Convention recognizes that non-State actors have obligations to civilians during conflicts. The fight against impunity, addressing the underlying political grievances and reminding belligerents of their obligation to guarantee the safety of humanitarian personnel are some of the key priorities for the African continent.

Ms. Decrey Warner (Geneva Call) highlighted the key findings of the study on the perceptions of armed non-State actors on humanitarian actors published by Geneva Call in 2016. The study shows that armed non-State actors are broadly familiar with core humanitarian principles and express positive attitudes towards international humanitarian law. However, their comprehension of relevant rules on humanitarian access was limited and influenced by whether humanitarian agencies had directly engaged with them on these issues. Armed non-State actors consulted felt entitled to regulate and control humanitarian access and they also considered themselves responsible for the security of aid workers in their areas. Ms. Decrey Warner noted that it was important to engage and train non-State actors in humanitarian action and that engagement had to take place early on to build trust.

Mr. Bruno Jochum (MSF) referred to the need to see more tangible progress in the implementation of Security Council resolution 2286 and the Secretary-General’s recommendations. MSF faces challenges in situations of indiscriminate violence against civilians and when military strategies deprive populations of care. The trend in the past year goes beyond attacks against medical facilities and humanitarian personnel and there are more situations where States accuse humanitarian actors of providing medical care to all parties. This is wrongly understood as complicity and support to terrorism. What is needed is stronger political mobilization by States and more dialogue between State, non-State and humanitarian actors.

The discussion underlined the importance of disseminating information on international humanitarian law norms to non-State actors and creating a space to foster dialogue among all actors involved in conflict; support for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2286; accountability and the fight against impunity; and ensuring the non-politicization of humanitarian aid.

In his closing remarks, Mr. O’Brien stressed that violations of international humanitarian law directly impact people, by hindering delivery of assistance and increasing forced displacement. There is an urgent need to bring international humanitarian law to the field level, including training and sensitization. States need to set the example and show leadership by abiding by IHL even when they are not parties to a conflict. It is important to create an environment that allow humanitarian organizations to engage with non-State armed groups. Women can play a key role to foster dialogue.
3.6. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: “PROTRACTED CRISIS: MEETING NEEDS AND REDUCING NEEDS, RISK AND VULNERABILITY”.
22 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Chair: H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator: Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:
- Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Advisor on Human Rights for the President of Colombia
- Professor Walter Kälin, Professor Emeritus at the University of Bern, Switzerland
- Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR
- Mr. Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)
- Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia
- Mr. Bruce Mokaya, Deputy Regional Director for Africa, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

In his introductory remarks, Mr. O’Brien announced that concrete efforts have been made to implement the New Way of Working (NWOW) at the field level, with the overall aim to reduce needs, risk and vulnerability. As protracted crises become the norm, inequality mounts, and vulnerability linked to climate change grows, the scale and scope of humanitarian suffering is set to increase. While the international community can do their best to keep people alive, safe and healthy in the world’s most difficult environments, this is not enough. Treating people’s immediate needs will not lift them out of crisis, but trap them in a perpetual cycle of need. The UN system must work together to break down silos from the beginning of a crisis “to support affected communities, address structural and economic impacts and help prevent a new spiral of fragility and instability”, as noted by UN Secretary-General in his inaugural statement. This means delivering coherent, long-lasting solutions that address both crises’ symptoms and their root causes. The objective of the panel was to demonstrate some of the work already underway by a wide range of actors to change the way they work, making a real difference to the lives of people on the ground.

The discussion highlighted a number of positive examples showing that new approaches to protracted crises, including the New Way of Working, are already being implemented, and that there are many different routes to achieving collective outcomes for the most vulnerable. This does not mean that humanitarian actors will cast their core responsibility aside – notably that of providing principled humanitarian action wherever it is needed. But it is equally a priority to ensure that humanitarian action itself does not continue to be protracted.
Ms. Gaviria gave an overview of the efforts of the Colombian Government to implement the peace accord and build strategies that reduce the needs, risk and vulnerability of conflict-affected and other vulnerable people in Colombia.

Professor Kälin, based on his work on internal displacement, including his recent collaboration with OCHA around collective outcomes in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) settings, noted that assistance and support should not be provided on the basis of need alone, but also on the basis of a better understanding of why needs are protracted. Analysis must not only show what people need, but also what they want for their future. And this must start by building on the systems that already exists in a country, and supporting governments in ensuring they can deliver on the commitment of ‘leaving no one behind.’

In protracted crises, as highlighted by Mr. Mokaya (ICRC), the humanitarian and development communities must therefore maintain “the rhythm of two speeds”: They must simultaneously provide immediate response while strengthening systems and normative frameworks that allow people to care for themselves in the long term.

As noted by Ms. Clements (UNHCR), in protracted crises, a ‘whole of society’ perspective requires all relevant actors to work together to identify the approaches needed to achieve shared results. She highlighted that policy frameworks must build on what is already in place and available. For example, the Common Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) is done in country in collaboration with the World Bank and with national resources and plans, as well as private sector engagement to find longer-term solutions. Professor Kälin supported this view, noting that it is always best when collective outcomes are in line with existing frameworks, like the IDP Framework on Durable Solutions, human rights norms, and other guidelines.

Mr. Abdulla (WFP) noted that the NWOW is an opportunity for very different approaches to tackle risk and vulnerability. It requires a joint approach to assess, plan, prioritize, and then ensure that funding is allocated to agreed plans and priorities to meet and reduce needs. For instance, development progress explains why the effects of the current droughts are less severe than in the past. Humanitarian and development actors need to continue to engage with governments that made commitments to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development to ensure that the most vulnerable within their borders benefit from development.

Ms. Eziakonwa-Onochie, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia, noted that, depending on contexts, launching a humanitarian appeal is not always the answer. It is important to have flexibility to repurpose funds, as needed. Planning should take into account vulnerability and risk, and not just a poverty reduction approach. By now there is also enough evidence of success to demonstrate the “investibility” of this approach at the country level, and many donors are already providing multi-year, flexible financing.
In his closing remarks, Mr. O’Brien expressed confidence that by next year’s ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the commitment to reduce risk and vulnerability will be the ‘new normal’ in protracted crises.
3.7. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: “ADDRESSING HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES LINKED TO DISASTER AND CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED MOBILITY”
23 June, ECOSOC Chamber, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Chair: H.E. Mr. Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany and Vice-President of ECOSOC

Moderator: Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panellists:
• Mr. Elhad As Sy, Secretary General, International Federation of the Red Cross (IFCR)
• H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations in Geneva
• Ms. Laura Thompson, Deputy Director, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
• Mr. Ernst Rauch, Head of Corporate Climate Center, Munich Re
• Mr. Vincent Lelei, UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in Somalia

Mr. O’Brien opened the discussion by outlining that the objective of the panel was to explore how Member States, with the support of the humanitarian community, can better understand, prepare for, and respond to the risks and vulnerabilities linked to disasters and climate change, with particular emphasis on identifying effective strategies for ensuring adequate protection and assistance for those displaced by natural disasters or the effects of climate change. He noted that every year disasters force millions of people to flee or leave their homes. In the future, climate change, in combination with other driving factors, is expected to increase displacement because there will be more frequent and severe disasters.

Mr. O’Brien stressed that, while the vast majority of people displaced by disasters remain within their own country, cross-border displacement is also common and is expected to increase as climate change continues. Just as we need to acknowledge that not all disaster-induced displacement is internal, we must also guard against the assumption that it is only short-term. On the contrary, in many cases, people do not find solutions for years. It is therefore essential that humanitarian and development actors, financial institutions and the private sector work together and complement the efforts of the authorities to protect, assist and support solutions for those displaced, as well as their host communities.

During the discussion, Mr. Sy, (IFRC), stressed the need to be smarter in the ways we prepare for disasters and invest at a large scale ahead of crises. Reducing risk and improving response also means investing in community resilience that would allow communities to “bounce back” without having to leave their homes and livelihoods. Disaster risk reduction activities are key. In this context, Mr. Sy stressed the need to empower local organizations to be able to respond. Disasters take place at the local level and so too must the response.
H.E. Ms. Khan (Fiji) referred to climate change as the most important issue facing Pacific Island countries, many of which are low lying and vulnerable to rising sea levels and tidal action. If we do not manage climate change, it has the potential to become the greatest barrier to sustainable development. Noting that the effects of climate change are widespread and multi-sectoral, Ambassador Khan said that in no area there is a greater need for a multi-sectoral approach than in responding to displacement. Noting the particular impact of displacement on people with ancestral links to the land, she stated the need for guidelines for relocation that are based on a high degree of consultation with the affected populations.

Ms. Thompson (IOM) stressed the importance of understanding how human mobility can help build capacity and support Governments as well as communities to ensure that disasters (both sudden or slow onset) do not evolve into humanitarian crises. In disasters situations, migrants are often among the most vulnerable, particularly those in irregular situation. Ms. Thompson noted that the various challenges they face are often shaped by mobility options – whether population movements are planned and well organized or spontaneous.

Mr. Rauch (Munich Re) referred to the work that has been undertaken in the private sector to better identify and measure risks and possible ways of reducing short and long-term vulnerability to disasters which can pay dividends in terms of reducing humanitarian costs. In this regard, Mr. Rauch stressed the important role of the scientific community in forecasting and modelling disasters that allow humanitarian organizations to better identify risks and consequences and prepare accordingly. He added that it may be possible to provide insurance pay outs to humanitarian organizations to recoup their costs in cases where forecasted events, which humanitarian organizations have spent money preparing for, are less severe than forecast.

Mr. Vincent Lelei (Somalia) referred to the steps that can be taken to better prepare for and mitigate the impact of disasters in the Somali context. Emphasis was placed on the importance of effective communication with the affected communities and the pre-positioning of relief items. He noted that lessons learned to date have been incorporated into protocols at local level and will be reflected in a national level instrument.

The discussion underlined the critical importance of addressing disaster and climate change induced mobility. It was emphasized that while such displacement can often be sudden, such as a result of hurricanes or flooding, it is often cyclical in nature and can also be driven by slow onset causes, all of which have implications for the ability to prepare and respond. It was further stressed that disaster and climate change-induced mobility was likely to become increasingly prevalent and acute. Moreover, its impact will be felt most, though not exclusively, by low income countries, which are perhaps the least able to respond to the overwhelming challenges that such displacement presents and that can lead to important economic shocks and act as a major impediment to sustainable development.

The discussion also recognized the complex and cross-cutting nature of the challenge of disaster and climate-change induced displacement. It was emphasized that meeting the challenge requires a whole-of-government approach, involving all relevant ministries and departments, and
not just those normally dealing with disaster response. It also requires a whole-of-community approach that recognizes, *inter alia*, the important role of local actors in preparedness and response activities.

Emphasis was also placed on the need to ensure an approach that is sensitive to gender, age, disability and other vulnerabilities; and that takes into account the particular attachment of indigenous communities to their land. Key in this regard is the need for effective, meaningful communication and consultation with the people concerned.

Finally, the discussion noted that there are actions that can be taken to reduce the impact of disasters. Significant focus was placed on building resilience and on disaster risk reduction efforts; on better preparedness measures; on the important role and potential of forecast-based financing; and working with the scientific community to model potential scenarios and can inform the humanitarian response ahead of time. There was a clear sense of the need to further build on existing initiatives in these areas and seek to systematize them more broadly. Key in this regard is working to implement the provisions of international agreements, such as the Sendai Framework, and the Paris Agreement. It also means working through the Platform on Disaster Displacement and seeking to implement the Nansen Protection Agenda; addressing the questions around the legal status of people that are and will be affected in the future; and having a more comprehensive discussion on how that issue should be addressed in the future Global Compacts on refugees and migrants.
4. SIDE-EVENTS

1. High-Level Event on Famine Prevention and Response
2. Hunger and the Protection of Human Rights
3. Moving from Commitments to Implementation: Women and Girls in the Context of Crisis
4. Settlement-based Coordination for Inclusive and Effective Humanitarian Responses to Urban Crises
5. Responding to Tomorrow’s Challenges: Financing Local and National Humanitarian Capacity
6. Cash-Based Transfers as a Front-Line Response in Countries Facing Famine
7. Data and Trends: Financing to Meet Needs
8. Localizing Humanitarian Assistance: Empowering Local Actors Through Better Financing Partnerships and Capacity Building
9. Humanitarian Assistance Operations in High Risk Environments
10. The CRRF – Potentially a Game Changer in Large Scale and Protracted Refugee Situations
11. Protecting the Medical Mission: Implementation Matters
12. Humanitarian financing towards aid effectiveness: Grand Bargain One Year Outcome
13. Advancing the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action
14. Marking the 40th anniversary of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions: The Impact and Practical relevance of the Additional Protocols – a Focus on Urban Warfare and Humanitarian Relief and Access
15. Preventing Human Trafficking among Crisis-Affected Populations in Emergency Settings
16. Innovation - Financing, Technology, Knowledge and Action
17. Impact of Counter-Terrorism Measures on Humanitarian Action
18. Placing Youth at the Forefront of Humanitarian Action and the 2030 Agenda
19. One Year after the World Humanitarian Summit: Advancing the Agenda for Humanity
20. Effective prevention and response: From Early Warning to Preparedness
22. Breaking the Impasse: A New Approach to Protracted Internal Displacement
23. Protection of Humanitarian Action: Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Aid Workers
4.1. High-Level Event on Famine Prevention and Response
21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): International Organization for Migration and InterAction

Objective: Take stock of the collective response to the Secretary-General’s call to action to respond to and prevent famine in North-East Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN in Geneva

Moderator: Mr. Stephan O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA

Panel: Mr. Elhadj As Sy, Secretary-General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Dr. Peter Salama, Executive Director, Emergencies Program, World Health Organization; Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group; Ms. Maria Luisa Silva, Director, UNDP Office in Geneva; Mr. Manuel Fontaine, Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF; Mr. Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP; Mr. Nigel Timmins, Director, Global Humanitarian Team, Oxfam International

Discussion:
Panelists provided reflections on key accomplishments of the famine response over the past four months, ongoing challenges and constraints, and actions required to strengthen the response, including closing funding gaps.

The Chair opened the discussion by noting that the composition of the panel was a recognition of the active implementation of the New Way of Working to provide a sustainable response to the four crises.

The Permanent Representative of Germany identified the following main priorities: the need for increased and flexible humanitarian funding, increased humanitarian access, and smarter and more sustainable engagement in collectively working towards solutions.

The USG/ERC called for a holistic multi-sectoral approach that will cut across the humanitarian-development nexus and build resilience. He highlighted the importance of investing in preventative approaches that would reduce both the need for humanitarian assistance and the long-term costs of emergency response. He encouraged participants to work towards political action to end conflict and to promote respect for international humanitarian law. Sustained and scaled-up responses to meet increasing needs are needed despite the robust humanitarian response in North-East Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. Famine has been prevented from spreading for now, but needs have not decreased and all four countries remain in crisis. In
South Sudan, food insecurity and overall humanitarian needs have severely deteriorated across the country, despite some gains in Unity State. The number of people in IPC Phase 4 – that is one step away from famine – has increased from 1 million to 1.7 million, and the number of people severely food insecure has increased from 5 to 6 million. Across South Sudan, more people were on the brink of famine in June than they were in February. On the other hand, further deterioration into famine was averted in two other counties in former Unity State. This was the result of immediate and sustained multi-sector humanitarian assistance carried out since March. He further called for immediate mobilization of additional funding to support the ongoing response across all four countries. Since the Secretary-General’s call to action in February, less than 40 per cent of the $4.9 billion required has been received. The USG/ERC also urged to support the efforts of humanitarian and development actors as they operationalize the New Way of Working. For donors, this meant providing more flexible and risk-tolerant funding for development programmes and more multi-year funding for humanitarian assistance to maximize impact and build resilience in protracted contexts. For the United Nations and partners, this meant the need to break down silos within and across organizations and think creatively of how to provide medium-term assistance to reduce vulnerability and impoverishment, even in areas with ongoing conflict. Lastly, the USG/ERC stressed that it was essential that the international community did all it could to end conflict since the severity of needs stemmed from armed conflict and there was a direct correlation between food scarcity and protection risks, particularly in situations of displacement.

IFRC Secretary-General recognized that history is repeating itself, citing the 2011 Horn of Africa food crisis. He acknowledged that “political solutions must be found for political problems” and expressed disappointment that the international community was failing to respond to the magnitude of the crisis. He pointed out that, in famine situations, hunger often overshadows excess mortality caused by diseases and encouraged attendees to focus on addressing the cholera outbreak. He gave an example of the Horn of Africa where 200,000 cases of cholera were reported within only 6 weeks. He also called for addressing issues of the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers, and the overwhelming funding gaps that persists in all four countries.

WHO Executive Director emphasized health implications in all 4 crises, stating that disease (specifically measles, malaria, pneumonia, and cholera) is always present in between malnutrition and death. He exemplified this point, stating that in Nigeria malaria was the single factor that caused the most deaths. WHO also emphasized current constraints, including lack of respect for international humanitarian law, deliberate restriction of humanitarian space through active decisions by various parties, and staggeringly low funding.

The World Bank Senior Vice President stated that worldwide, 108 million people are food insecure and 1.4 million children have severe acute malnutrition (SAM). 80 percent of famine seen today stemmed from armed conflict. The World Bank representative called for “zero tolerance for famine going forward” and appealed for the respect of IHL and further investment in building resilience. He cited the difficulties in providing aid to the four countries due to ongoing access challenges, but ensured efforts continued. In Somalia, the development programs were paralyzed due to arrears and rules of engagement; nonetheless, the WB provided Somalia with $50 million grant for emergency drought response for the short- and mid-term to be implemented for the first time by
ICRC and FAO. In Yemen, the WB has allocated $250 million for an emergency health and nutrition project and $500 million for a response project implemented by UNDP that would provide access to services for 2.5 million people. Despite access challenges in South Sudan, WB staff have been deployed to Juba and were working in partnership with UNICEF and other actors. In Nigeria, the WB has given $650 million for 6 projects in 6 different states across the country. The World Bank Senior Vice President also pointed to a fast track approach adopted by the WB Board in approving allocation of funds in all aforementioned cases. In total, $1.8 billion will be allocated by the WB for famine response in the four countries.

The Director of UNDP Office in Geneva stressed that saving lives must be the absolute priority. The New Way of Working should be turned into reality through partnerships towards collective outcomes. More efforts are necessary to address the underlying causes of famine, as well as the need for more flexible funding, multi-year planning, risk tolerance, increased investment in infrastructure and employment generation and cash transfer programs. Specific issues to be addressed in each country are as follows: Somalia requires investment in infrastructure that will limit future famine; Nigeria requires investments in enhanced absorption capacity to ensure long-term self-sufficiency; South Sudan needs political dialogue and Yemen a scale up of large-scale employment and cash for work programs. These efforts would not only directly work towards famine relief, but will simultaneously support the SDGs.

The Director of UNICEF Office of Emergency Programmes recognized that the crises were defined by more than hunger, citing health factors, risk of a lost generation, protection issues, education and displacement. 1.6 million children have been immunized against measles, while 2.6 million people have been given access to water. He stressed that every window of opportunity should be seized to bring humanitarian assistance and that limitations for an effective delivery of assistance include access challenges, quality and flexibility of funding and the political context.

WFP Deputy Executive Director also speaking on behalf of the FAO acknowledged the New Way of Working as an opportunity to utilize “collaborative advantages rather than comparative advantages.” In recognizing the erosion of livelihoods, further investment in agriculture and livestock are needed since “saving livelihoods means saving lives”. He stressed that although famines have been averted, the next 6 months will be a critical period as people are still at serious risk of dying. WFP reached 10 million people with food assistance in May and was aiming to reach 13 million people in June. Emphasized challenges included consistent resourcing, seasonal factors, security and access challenges. Bringing about peace in all four countries is what was really needed.

The Director of OXFAM Global Humanitarian Team highlighted three systemic issues that span all four countries. First, there is an urgent need for the respect of humanitarian aid operations. This will better allow humanitarian workers to do their jobs and save lives. Second, political engagement needs to be bolstered. Third, OXFAM stressed the importance of addressing underlying root causes (governance, environment, etc.) and involving at-risk and affected people and communities in policy decisions. Recognizing the importance of the New Way of Working, OXFAM warned against using humanitarian resources to tackle long-term development issues.
From the floor, Yemen relayed the staggering fact that one person dies of famine every 35 seconds in this country alone.

The European Union, Norway, Japan, the United States, Ukraine, and Australia expressed their grave concern at the ongoing crises and cited their continued financial contributions and support. Calls were made to other Member States to scale up their funding and ensure unhindered access to humanitarian partners.

UNHCR urged attendees to remember that millions of people are being displaced due to the crises and urged for increased funding (out of $1.6 billion sought by UNHCR in 2017 for the 4 countries, only 20 per cent was received).

In closing, the USG/ERC highlighted the severity of the crises, stating that “the most vulnerable people on our planet” are in dire need of assistance. He summarized key themes, including continued need for funding, holistic multi-sectored approaches, sustained partnerships and unfettered humanitarian access.
**4.2. Hunger and the Protection of Human Rights**

21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Sponsor(s):** The Republic of Korea and the Global Protection Cluster

**Objective:** Focus on responding to the protection needs of individuals who face heightened and imminent risks to their life in the context of the famine crisis. Examine the direct correlation between food scarcity and protection risks, particularly in situations of displacement.

**Chair:** Ms. Louise Aubin, Deputy Director of International Protection, UNHCR

**Moderator:** Mr. Pierre Gentile, Head of Protection, ICRC

**Panel:** Ms. Jessica Gorham, REGA Eastern Africa, GBV AOR/Global Protection Cluster; Ms. Caroline van Buren, Representative, UNHCR Mogadishu; Mr. Michael Bowers, Vice-President, Mercy Corps; Mr. Tony Ojukwu, Director, Nigerian Human Rights Commission; Mr. Brian Lander, Senior Liaison Officer, World Food Programme

**Discussion:**

More than 20 million people across four countries are at risk of starvation because of the deadly combination of ongoing conflict, restricted freedom of movement, drought and rising food prices. If action is taken now to address crucial humanitarian needs, the resulting consequences of famine can be prevented. The Chair noted that famine does not happen overnight, but in a cumulative multi-faceted way. None of the four famine countries achieve more than 20% funding for protection activities.

In this context, panelists at this side-event highlighted the following issues:

- Three key actions to address hunger: gain access to affected people; act early and enable affected people to hold on their assets; and mobilize resources.

- A situation of hunger can quickly slide into famine when the root causes of the situation are not addressed in time. While funding for operations is critical, no amount of money can mitigate the failure to abide by existing international norms. It is important to end impunity and break the cycle of conflict and hunger by addressing the lack of respect for international humanitarian law and looking for political solutions.

- Capacity is key in situations where access is restricted. The capacity of staff in the field to lead front-line negotiations must be developed. Protection must remain central in developing any response to crises.

- Women and girls face differential risks in situations of hunger. Women are responsible for household-related activities, which are directly affected by drought and consequential...
hunger. Protection in hunger emergencies is not getting the funding required so it is important to integrate gender-based violence (GBV) in food security and nutrition.

- The crisis in Somalia is a protection crisis and it is necessary to deal with the underlying cause, namely the continuation of the conflict. Eight of the 11 areas facing hunger are controlled by Al-Shabab. In addition, clan-based conflicts are contributing to hunger. Hunger is leading to large-scale displacement, although there are only small movements into neighbouring countries. There are associated risks with displacement, such as GBV, site management, family separation and lack of access to education for children. Unless the drivers of conflict and conflict itself are dealt with, Somalia will remain at risk of famine.

- Large numbers of people in north-eastern Nigeria are facing a risk of extreme malnutrition and hunger. Structural problems need to be examined and a political solution needs to be agreed upon. UNHCR has been conducting vulnerability screening with its partners, including the Human Rights Commission. The results of this screening show sexual exploitation and abuse, child labour, restriction on freedom of movement, family separation and lack of access to livelihoods. The breakdown of the economic structure in the North-East is leading to further protection risks and creating needs for food, water and health services. The return of refugees from Cameroon is further exacerbating the protection situation. The challenge in Nigeria is to increase access to affected people and to address the funding gap, which is approaching 80%. Now is the time for the international community to act.
4.3. Moving from Commitments to Implementation: Women and Girls in the Context of Crisis
21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Sponsor(s):** United Arab Emirates, UN Women, and the IASC Gender Reference Group

**Objective:** Discuss internal reforms that the UN and other humanitarian and development actors should undertake to ensure that (1) the needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls are planned for and met during humanitarian crises and (2) women are empowered as first responders, income generators for their families and instrumental in the development of the resilience of themselves, their households and their communities.

**Moderator:** Mr. Daniel Seymour, Humanitarian Director, UN Women

**Panel:** Ms. Reema Ibrahim Al Mannaee, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Geneva on behalf of H.E Obaid Salem Saeed Nasser Al Zaabi, Representative of the UAE to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (key note speaker); Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General, Partnerships, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); Ms. Sonya Ruparel, Deputy Humanitarian Director, ActionAid; Ms. Joan Timoney, Senior Director of Advocacy and External Relations, Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)

**Discussion:**
In his opening remarks, Mr. Seymour highlighted the global humanitarian challenge to address the growing needs of 175 million people affected by crises. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by crisis, and the absence of sex- and age-disaggregated data, the lack of gender analysis to inform decision making, the insufficient funding for women and girls’ capacity, and inadequate political attention and awareness around gender inequality of risk continue to hamper gender-responsive humanitarian efforts.

In her key note address, Ms. Reema Ibrahim Al Mannaee, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Geneva, affirmed that in times of crisis women and girls were paying the highest price while trying to maintain their dignity as well as the health and welfare of their families. Ms. Al Mannaee highlighted the need to work together to protect the health and rights of women and girls in crisis situations, recognize that women are more than victims and promote equal participation of women. The UAE is a key supporter and a champion of Every Women Every Child EveryWhere, a multi-stakeholder movement that extends the UN Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescent’s Health to humanitarian settings and that aims to end preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents by 2030.

All the panelists pointed towards the need to work across the humanitarian-development nexus to recognize and facilitate women’s contributions as first responders, community mobilisers, and guardians of social cohesion and resilience, and ensure accountable and effective humanitarian
responses to the needs and priorities of women and their communities. The tendency to overlook the needs of women and girls in humanitarian crises will continue as long as the humanitarian system remains patriarchal as local responses are managed and led predominantly by men. Ms. Sonya Ruparel (ActionAid) remarked that on top of the structural obstacles that women face in the humanitarian system, they are also confronted with numerous socio-economic and cultural barriers to exercising their power and leadership in humanitarian response, preparedness and resilience programming. Importantly, in the World Humanitarian Summit, women and girls were recognized as change agents and leaders in emergencies. Additionally, two thirds of the donor signatories to the Grand Bargain committed to empower and protect women and girls in emergencies.

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood (IFRC) highlighted the enormous gap in basic health services for women and children under five, especially in complex humanitarian crises. Sanitation and hygiene-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets will only be achieved if there is a significant push to address health care and hygiene needs for those most affected by disasters, protracted conflict, extreme poverty, social exclusion and those living in remote areas, informal settlements and along migration routes which are beyond the reach of government. Moreover, evidence shows that sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) increases during disasters. Importantly, State Parties to the Geneva Conventions, as well as the Red cross and Red Crescent movement, have reaffirmed their commitments to prevent and respond to SGBV in the context of disasters. Furthermore, IFRC is carrying out case studies in several countries to identify best practices and common gap areas in law and policies on SGBV.

Ms. Joan Timoney (WRC) discussed the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants that lays out a vision for a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to improve protection assistance, strengthen self-reliance of refugees and support host communities and governments. Currently, UNCHR is piloting the CRRF in several countries in collaboration with multiple stakeholders to inform the development of a Global Compact for Refugees which will be presented to the General Assembly in 2018. Ms. Timoney highlighted the need to ensure the rights, needs and capacities of women and girls reflected in the New York Declaration are incorporated in the Global Compact for Refugees. To achieve this, refugee women and girls, as well as national and local women’s organizations, need to be at the center of developing the Global Compact for Refugees.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Seymour noted the following issues identified by the panelists and other participants as means of translating existing commitments on gender-responsive humanitarian efforts into action:

- Provide opportunities for refugee women and girls and local women’s organizations to be at the centre of developing the Global Compact for Refugees by including them in the discussions that are taking place in their countries and elsewhere.

- Member states, UN, INGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent movement and other stakeholders should work towards achieving the commitments to prevent SGBV in crisis
contexts by identifying best practices and common gap areas in law and policies on SGBV. Moreover, gender-specific data collection should be improved to better understand the specific vulnerabilities of women and girls in crisis settings and to track progress.

- Build on the World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments to empower and protect women and girls in emergencies. To that end, work across the humanitarian-development nexus to recognize and facilitate women’s contributions as first responders, community mobilisers, and guardians of social cohesion and resilience, and ensure accountable and effective humanitarian response responding to the need and priorities of women and their communities.

- The rights of women and girls to access the sexual and reproductive health services they require in humanitarian settings must be prioritized through initiatives such as Every Women Every Child Everywhere.
4.4. Settlement-Based Coordination for Inclusive and Effective Humanitarian Responses to Urban Crises
21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): IMPACT Initiatives, IASC RG MHCUA, Global Shelter Cluster, Global Food Security Cluster, and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises

Objective: This side-event focused on the need to strengthen the capacity of the humanitarian system mechanisms to better coordinate when responding to crisis in urban settings. A more inclusive coordination includes cooperation and coordination with local stakeholders, such as local government and municipalities, civil society, local private sector, and cooperation with development actors (World Bank, UNDP and others) – contributing to strengthening the humanitarian/development nexus.

Moderator: Mr. Luca Pupulin, Executive Director, IMPACT Initiatives

Panel: Mr. Brett Moore, Global Shelter Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR; Ms. Sandra Durzo, Senior Shelter Officer, IFRC; Ms. Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief, Inter-Cluster Coordination Section, OCHA

Discussion:
54% of the world’s population lives today in an urban environment, characterized by complex and dynamic systems and governance mechanisms, and urban population is increasing dramatically by the day. The intersection of urbanization with conflict, displacement and climate change has been a key challenge for recent humanitarian responses.

Complex urban settings and shortcomings of recent responses have challenged traditional ways of coordinating and implementing humanitarian action. As acknowledged by the WHS, during Habitat III and by key UN Agencies and Donor countries, a New Way of Working is needed to more efficiently meet increasing needs of affected populations—especially in challenging contexts, such as fragile cities or cities affected by crises.

Mr. Brett Moore (UNHCR) noted that appropriate shelter responses consider the specific location in which they are being implemented. Coordination at a national level is part of what clusters do, but sometimes this approach fails to adequately understand nuances at local level and specific issues and vulnerabilities. Programmes can be developed at local level more easily, and the ‘vertical’ relationship to national level structures and systems can be better understood and quantified.

Ms. Sandra Durzo (IFRC) noted that, in urban settings, the Red Cross functions as a conveyer for key local actors, improving the emergency planning at neighborhood level. Working with host communities, it helps decrease the exposure of the most vulnerable population and increase their inclusion and social capital when there is mass migration into cities. Contextualization is key. There
are also challenges, such as to know at what level to engage and ensuring the neutrality of the Red Cross when working with municipalities.

Ms. Loretta Hieber-Girardet (OCHA) noted that crises impact holistically, and it is time to understand the needs of groups of population in specific areas, to enable an area-based response. There is a need of a full package of services for meaningful outcomes and results. Outcomes should be built on strategic partnerships with the same objectives in mind. The cluster approach does not need to stop, but should be used differently, focusing on the technical expertise it could bring. There is also the need to have more investment in context analysis and preparedness, as well as of a context specific approach to coordination.

During the interactive discussion with the audience, the following issues were raised:

- Organizations should be able to respond to the full spectrum of needs and to produce context analyses. Humanitarian approaches could be used in some urban areas facing chronic poverty for instance.
- Inter-cluster work tends to focus on process and not enough on helping clusters work at subnational level.
- Need to increase capacity and preparedness.
Responding to Tomorrow’s Challenges: Financing Local and National Humanitarian Capacity
21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Switzerland, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Objective: Provide governments, private sector, and development actors the opportunity to highlight practical examples of their contributions to enhance the capacity of local humanitarian actors, and discuss how these practices can reduce outstanding need and diminish vulnerabilities.

Moderator: Ms. Saba Al Mubaslat, CEO, Humanitarian Leadership Academy

Panel: Ms. Mabel Koketso, Secretary General, Botswana Red Cross; Mr. Arnhild Spence, Director of Policy Coordination and Advocacy, WFP; Ms. Anne Street, Head of Humanitarian Policy, CAFOD; Mr. David Nash, Z Zurich Foundation Manager

Discussion:
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 localization 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. The IFRC is committed to deliver against the Grand Bargain’s endeavor 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.

Through an interactive discussion, the panellists at this event reported on the varied experiences of the UN, NGOs, the ICRC, and the private sector in partnering from the global to the local levels to meet humanitarian goals. The discussion brought out several key lessons that can help the sector to move toward greater emphasis on investing in the capacity of local actors and working with them on a more equal basis.

One key principle that arose from the discussion was the overwhelming importance of trust:

- Trust between sister Red Cross Societies and the Botswana Red Cross allowed the Botswana Red Cross to build fundamental capacities in finance, administration and governance. As a result, the Botswana Red Cross transformed from an organization...
struggling with debt and collapsing local structures to the strongest humanitarian actor in the country, and the government’s “go-to” partner.

- Trust between the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Turkish Red Crescent. Together the organisations built the largest cash programme aimed at support for one million Syrian refugees.
- Trust between the Z Zurich Foundation and the IFRC allowed the organisations to build a global partnership on flood resilience. The partnership is co-designed with local volunteers and passes 80% of project funds to the community level, including all overhead. Trust has also motivated the INGO signatories of the Charter4Change initiative to make major changes in the way they partner with local NGOs, including a pass through of over CHF 200 million this year.

Trust most flow both ways and is not easily or quickly established. All parties must be willing to make investments in their relationship over time. Moreover, relying on a trusting relationship does not mean disregarding respect for accountability; quite the contrary. Agreeing together on common objectives and how best to pursue and reach them ultimately provides tangible results for the implementation of programs and positively impact’s beneficiaries. As noted by one of the panellists, “throwing money at a problem does not make it go away”.

On other hand, money is certainly a critical factor of the equation. Per the Grand Bargain, the international community made a pledge to channel 25% of international emergency funding through national and local responders by 2020. As highlighted by the recent statistics, only 2% of direct humanitarian funding reached local actors in 2016, out of which 0.4 % went to national NGOs. Proportions must rapidly increase if Grand Bargain ambitions are to be realized. Moreover, working with local actors is not only about local civil society, but government as well – particularly local government.

To reach this goal, capacity is another key principle that emerged from the discussion. For many decades, the international community has invested in international response systems. However, consideration for investing into local capacity building has only just began. Doing so requires flexibility, i.e. funding not only for short-term, project-related activities, but looking to the specific needs of local organizations to make themselves strong over the long term. As noted by one panellist, “we must be ready to invest when the situation is still calm”. WFP, for example, has recently made fundamental changes to its operating methodologies, moving towards investing in local partners and delivering less itself. Building on its partnership with IFRC, WFP identified 4 pilot countries and focus on investing in the respective National Societies of these countries through fundamental institutional capacity building, with a long-term goal of increasing their ability to deliver cash-based programming.

To support donors reforming mechanisms to increase funding to local actors, stronger evidence can be gathered and communicated regarding effectiveness, costs, strengths and weaknesses of local humanitarian action. Better data, as discussed in the Grand Bargain work stream, is also needed.
There was agreement that the time has come for greater reliance on local action. However, making the changes will require less bureaucracy, some risk-taking, and up-front investing in local actors for increased resilience. Fundamentally, as the session chair emphasized, we must be patient and carefully track progress; change takes time and starts from within.
Cash-Based Transfers as a Front-Line Response in Countries Facing Famine
21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Norway, World Food Programme (WFP), and the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)

Objective: Explore the use of cash in the delivery of large-scale emergency assistance, including common platforms and multi-sector programming. Explore the operational realities of when and where cash-based assistance could be most appropriate. Highlight increased accountability and sharing platform innovations for beneficiary data, including cloud-based technology, digital beneficiary transfer management platforms, biometrics, and multi-wallet features. Consider the impacts, risks, costs and benefits of cash transfers across a wide range of humanitarian contexts.

Chair and Moderator: Ms. Leni Stenseth, Director, Section for Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Panel: Dr. Maryan Qasim, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Somalia; Mr. Laurent Bukera, Representative and Country Director, Somalia, WFP; Ms. Caroline Holt, Interim Policy Coordinator, Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP); Ms. Paula Gil Baizan, Global Humanitarian Director, Cash-Based Programming, World Vision International (WVI); Mr. Pascal Hundt, Head of Assistance Division, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Mr. Manuel Fontaine, Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Discussion:
Cash-based transfers (CBT) are fast becoming the modality of choice in humanitarian response. After a review of the current humanitarian context and challenges in Somalia, panelists looked at how CBT has been rolled out and used effectively in Somalia under difficult conditions in the struggle to avert famine and in support of national goals. Panelists discussed models of collaboration to bring cash to scale in large-scale emergencies, including common platforms and multi-sector programming, taking risk and accountability into consideration. Operational realities and the appropriateness of using cash in conflict situations were explored. Technology and innovation options for digital beneficiary and transfer management platforms were reviewed, with a link made to the WFP/SCOPE digital beneficiary platform on exhibit at the ECOSOC HAS. Enhancing the impact of cash-based assistance by linking it to social services towards the development of an effective shock-responsive social protection system was considered. The discussion also looked at gender and protection considerations when applying CBT. All panelists agreed that cash remains an important humanitarian response option taking into account local context and the needs of affected people.

Ms. Leni Stenseth (Norway) stressed the potential of CBTs as an innovative, efficient response in the face of a widening financial gap. Best practices are needed, as well as continued research...
on the contexts in which cash works well and those in which it does not. Cash has the potential for greater accountability to affected populations, as well as to enhance the sense of dignity, increase financial inclusion, reduce the use of negative coping strategies and contribute to the local economy. Norway is fully supportive of the Grand Bargain.

Dr. Maryan Qasim (Somalia) credited the generosity of donors with averting famine in Somalia, but noted that 2.3 million people still live in a state of emergency and continue to need help. Somalia has an opportunity to benefit in the long-term from cash-based assistance through developing a national registry, building the foundation for social security with strong controls, and elevating the banking sector to meet global standards. Progress achieved so far should be maintained.

Ms. Caroline Holt (CaLP) noted that only 7 per cent of humanitarian assistance is currently delivered through cash, providing a huge potential for scale-up, adding that it is one of many modalities that must be considered. Cash gives an opportunity for strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus, as well as for providing multi-purpose assistance. It is necessary to build the evidence base, supporting local capacity and to improve monitoring, joint assessment and coordination. There are six steps for improving cash assistance: i) ensure cash is funded, ii) consider cash at all stages of humanitarian response, iii) invest in capacity on the ground, iv) develop common standards and guidelines, v) strengthen coordination and collaboration, and vi) build the evidence base.

Ms. Paula Gil Baizan (WVI) stressed that famine is not a shortage of food, but rather a failure to protect the rights of vulnerable populations. Cash is an initial investment to empower people out of shock and poverty, but it is necessary to build resilience and to work with the private sector to connect people to services such as savings, loans, wire transfers, payment mechanisms such as credit and debit, currency exchange services, insurance and investment products.

Mr. Hundt (ICRC) noted the varied success of cash in conflict settings because of the impact of conflict on market systems, informal and formal economies, availability of key commodities and services, access, security and protection needs. Somalia and Nigeria are countries where cash has worked well for the ICRC, and Yemen and South Sudan examples where in-kind assistance was more effective, specifically because of the absence of key commodities, high volatility, poor market integration and lack of liquidity. Access, proximity, careful monitoring of impacts, flexible funding and weighing cost effectiveness with the effectiveness of programs, are key issues.

Mr. Manuel Fontaine (UNICEF) stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of exclusion from services, which is not addressed by short-term cash assistance and highlighted that the negative impacts of famine begin before famine is declared and endure over a longer period. UNICEF and WFP provide joint cash assistance in Somalia using a common platform (SCOPE) to reach 420,000 people and 60,000 households with monthly cash assistance over a six-month period. This common platform facilitates access to a broader set of services, including WASH, nutrition, livelihoods and food assistance; provides a built-in feedback mechanism to respond to
the needs of the affected population; and allows them to begin developing a social safety net for Somalia, in line with the Somali government’s vision of social security.

Mr. Laurent Bukera (WFP) noted that Somalia required a long-term approach, as it had no formal, nation-wide system of identification, a nascent Central Bank and a non-existent commercial banking system. The humanitarian assistance platform developed by WFP (SCOPE) allows to program resources and transfers, and to trace in real time what households use entitlements for, as well as when, where, and how frequently they use them. SCOPE contributes to more efficient reporting, its capacity to be scaled up as needed and its potential for being transferred and shared with other partners. Un-earmarked funding is necessary to facilitate the agility needed to respond in complex environments.

In the discussion that took place after the presentation, the following issues were raised:

- The need to focus on effectiveness and efficiency for people assisted, rather than making the focus on efficiency for agencies, and to supplement cash with other forms of support.

- Among the benefits of using cash, the opportunity to use cash as an avenue to achieve broader visions, such as social security systems, formal identity systems, financial infrastructure, e-commerce and mobile money, was stressed.

- Some participants noted several challenges in using cash assistance, including: difficulty in establishing widespread access; challenges to humanitarian principles, such as NGOs requesting third party monitoring and the release of beneficiaries’ names; the need for political solutions to conflict and displacement; lack of timeliness in releasing funds; earmarked donations; and prohibitive financial regulation environments.

- Several participants noted the importance of gender mainstreaming and protection concerns for women in cash assistance responses, with WFP noting that more than two-thirds of transactions are made by women.

- Ground Truth Solutions noted their upcoming report with CaLP on their cash barometer, which monitors the perceptions of people assisted with cash.

- ICRC inquired about using local service providers rather than large, international providers, to which WFP responded that there must be a balance between financial risk and building capacities of local actors, noting that contracts can be established that encourage large institutions to establish links with local actors, allowing them to reach qualifications for a bank.
4.7. Data and Trends: Financing to Meet Needs
21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

**Sponsor(s):** Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Development Initiatives (DI) and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

**Objective:**
1. Present up-to-date trends in humanitarian financing drawing upon key findings from the Global Humanitarian Assistance 2017 Report and the Global Humanitarian Overview 2017 Status Report, and setting the context for the current state of global needs and funding to inform the discussions of the presenters and respondents in the audience;
2. Draw on the latest data and analysis, highlighting key trends and patterns in order to provide insights on investments needed for the remainder of 2017 and beyond—both inside and outside the UN-coordinated interagency appeals—in order to better serve people in need; and acknowledge the generosity of donors who are making strides to meet the unprecedented level of humanitarian need;
3. Identify possible approaches for addressing the funding gap—both in terms of mobilizing additional resources and using the resources that are available more effectively—in line with the recommendations on humanitarian financing that emerged from the World Humanitarian Summit and with the Grand Bargain commitments, exploring different financing sources, modalities and mechanisms.

**Chair:** Ms. Heather Jeffrey, Director General, International Humanitarian Assistance, Global Affairs

**Panel:** Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; Ms. Sophia Swithin, Head of Research and Analysis, Development Initiatives; Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President for the 2030 Development Agenda and Partnerships, World Bank

**Discussion:**
The Global Humanitarian Overview 2017 Mid-year Status Report produced by OCHA and the 2017 Global Humanitarian Assistance Report produced by DI were launched during this event. Panelists described data trends for humanitarian funding in recent years and the extent to which they reflect the humanitarian financing approaches put forward by the Grand Bargain and the World Humanitarian Summit: multi-year timeframes, localization, and strengthening the humanitarian–development nexus, among others.

On data and trends: The data shows that much more needs to be done to realize the goals articulated during the World Humanitarian Summit. While appeal funding at mid-year was the highest ever in absolute terms and donors are giving more each year, a smaller rise was seen last year than in previous years (only 6%, or $1.6 billion). The donor base is still not sufficiently diversified, with nearly two thirds of total humanitarian funding coming from five donors in 2016. Unlike the previous year when nearly all of the top ten donors increased their contributions, in 2016 only four...
of the largest ten increased their humanitarian budgets. There are also changing patterns of growth: funding from Europe increased by 25%, while funding from the Middle East fell by 24%. In the private sector, there was only a modest rise this year, compared to substantial increases in previous years. A small number of crises continue to receive the majority of international humanitarian assistance, with 54% directed to five crises in 2016 (Syria, Yemen, Iraq, South Sudan, and Ethiopia), compared to 2012 when the largest five crises received less than one-third of the total. Given the complex, protracted nature of today’s crises, we might not see changes in this concentration in the near future.

The importance of high-quality data, baselines and metrics was emphasized. Ms. Sophia Swithin (D/I) said “There is a real appetite to ensure that better data informs better response to both today’s and tomorrow’s crises.” She noted how the spending of humanitarian assistance is paramount, and the goal of the Grand Bargain is to make aid “more efficient and effective in responding to the needs of those who it is meant to serve.”

On localization: The panelists discussed the importance of localization and the Grand Bargain commitment of 25% of funding going to local actors by 2020. In 2016, DI estimates that only 2% of international humanitarian assistance went directly to national and local responders. The IFRC voiced its appreciation of a focus on localization, reiterating that empowering local actors in advance of a crisis is crucial. Ms. Swithern noted that in 2016, $35 million of $470 million total CERF funding went to national NGOs from first-level recipients.

On earmarking: Mr. O’Brien emphasized the importance of unearmarked funding. The global target for unearmarked funding is 30%, however, data shows that the figure is relatively stagnant at 14% over last five years and there has been little improvement since the World Humanitarian Summit. Sweden spoke of the trend towards more earmarking and its leading role in promoting flexible, unearmarked funding, arguing for significant changes in control, accountability and visibility. All panelists agreed that more transparent methodology for decision-making is required, and there should be improved reporting on how the funding is used, despite the difficulty of measuring certain activities, such as coordination.

On multi-year funding: All panelists agreed on the need to move from a year-on-year approach to multi-year planning and multi-year funding. ICVA spoke of the need for UN agencies and large NGOs to pass on the benefits of multi-year funding to their implementing partners, including local and national NGOs. Panelists discussed the World Humanitarian Summit call for a shift from delivering aid to ending need and the overlaps between the extreme poor and those who live in high risk countries. Mr. O’Brien discussed a shift in approach; from measuring the output (what is bought) to measuring what the money has done to change lives (how we have changed the lives of affected people.)

On new financing instruments: Ms. Swithern argued that going forward, certain crises will require a more diverse and sophisticated set of financing instruments “for comprehensive and context-specific response.” Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin (WFP) described the importance of insurance and early warning systems. UNMAS commented that there is a multiplicity and complexity of financial
instruments, many of which are not fit to support cross-cutting activities. Mr. O’Brien acknowledged the difficulty of due diligence, and advocated risk sharing between donors and international NGOs.

On the humanitarian/development divide: Mr. Mohieldin acknowledged the OCHA-organized partnership mission to Somalia where he saw humanitarian and development actors working together. He reiterated that 87% of extremely poor and vulnerable people live in high-risk and fragile circumstances, and are particularly susceptible to environmental shocks. Therefore, humanitarian assistance and poverty reduction efforts are entwined with the mission of the World Bank, whose stated purpose is to end poverty. UNMAS commented that although discussions focus on bridging the humanitarian/development divide, organizations are often still bound by a specific line in the budget.

Suggested follow-up points and areas of interest: Discussions about new financing instruments (including insurance) should be continued and keep actors engaged, including the importance of local/municipal financing mechanisms for humanitarian response and emergency preparedness, and planning strategies for comprehensive and complementary humanitarian and development activities. Secondly, strong engagement between OCHA and humanitarian partners with DI and the International Aid Transparency Initiative should continue to ensure high-quality data and the ability to trace second- and third-level recipients/implementers of humanitarian aid. Lastly, the World Bank welcomed the OCHA-AU organized partnership mission to Somalia and further initiatives should be considered to demonstrate the effectiveness of collaboration amongst humanitarian and development agencies.
21 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Germany, Charter for Change (C4C), Shifting the Power Project, Disaster and Emergencies Preparedness Programme (DEPP), and Welthungerhilfe

Objective: (1) Present and discuss how all the commitments that humanitarian actors have made in different international processes (e.g. World Humanitarian Summit, Grand Bargain, and C4C) put local and national actors first; (2) Provide practical recommendations for the implementation of the localization agenda, focusing on the key issues around financing, capacity development and partnership; (3) Analyze where and how localization is occurring, and what works and does not work when localizing humanitarian response.

Panel: Ms. Loretta Hieber Girardet, Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor and Chief of Assessments of Emergencies, OCHA; Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General, Partnerships, IFRC; Ms. Joyce Chepkoech Charles, Secretary of the Disaster Management Committee, KOMESI (Kongelai Women Network); Mr. Sudhanshu Singh, Executive Director, Humanitarian Aid International; Mr. Alexander Sultan-Khan, Desk Officer Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office- Germany; Ms. Charlotte Lattimer, Senior Policy & Engagement Adviser, Development Initiatives; Ms. Camilla Knox-Peebles, Deputy Humanitarian Director, Oxfam-DEPP-C4C

Discussion: This side-event provided practical recommendations for the implementation of the localisation agenda, focusing on the key issues around financing, capacity development and partnership and encouraged an exchange of experiences between local actors, national actors, and government representatives.

Ms. Joyce Chepkoech Charles (KOMESI) shared how partnership and capacity building from ActionAid in her community has benefitted her grassroots organisation KOMESI to prepare, respond and mitigate to disasters. The ongoing drought emergency has tested the Kenyan government capacity to provide relief, however KOMESI established useful linkages with the National Drought Management Authority and ensured that women and children’s needs were prioritised in the response. Ms. Charles discussed the impact of gender within her community and the importance of women-led response.

Mr. Sudhanshu Singh (Humanitarian Aid International) addressed the strengths of local actors by pointing out that they were more efficient and quicker in their response to humanitarian challenges. He also underlined that local capacity building should not only focus on what international donors considered as necessary, but also take the needs of local actors as the
starting point. He also supported ‘upfront’ financing of local actors, preferably before a crisis or disaster and recommended to support local actors not only on a project level, but also to help them develop the necessary organisational structures.

Mr. Alexander Sultan-Khan (Germany) represented the donor perspective and stressed that Germany encouraged partners to include a capacity development component benefiting national and local actors in their projects. He also pointed out that Germany had increased its funding for pooled funds and continued to finance local and national responders as directly as possible. He agreed with the other panellists that it was not just about funding to local actors, but also about ensuring that localization yields more meaningful results (i.e. capacity development). He also supported a bottom-up approach when it comes to localization and underlined the importance of local partnerships.

Ms. Charlotte Lattimer (DI) presented relevant findings of the Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report 2017, underlining that local and national responders directly received 2% of international humanitarian assistance and 15% of total funding from Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBFP) in 2016 (based on data from OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service - FTS). She pointed out that not all sources of financing to local actors were included in the GHA Report, as not all funds were presented in the FTS.

Ms. Camilla Knox-Peebles represented Oxfam as members of the Charter4Change (C4C) network and the DEPP programme and underlined the importance of long-term relationships with local actors. She shared learning from the latest C4C Progress Report — referencing challenges agencies have faced in implementing the Principles of Partnership — where some partnerships are still short-term, project-based, and ‘subcontracting’ rather than the equal and transformative relationships the network are hoping to achieve. Ms. Knox-Peebles pushed for a change in ethos and mind-set of humanitarians and the sector; from the overly simplified ‘get things done, fast’ to doing things differently, investing in “peace time” partnerships, and ensuring funding for longer term investments in local/national organisations outside of emergencies. She also highlighted DEPP’s Financial Enablers programme in the Philippines as an example of how the right kind of investments, facilitated by a consortium of local and national organisations, can be successful.

The side-event concluded by underlining that local and national actors could best be supported to deliver high-quality humanitarian assistance with greater direct and indirect funding, long-term partnerships, and investments in capacity strengthening which they see necessary. The discussion also pointed out that local capacity development enables local actors to meet international standards in the field of compliance and accountability. New trends and successful cases highlighted that local actors are forming consortia in order to interact more efficiently with international organizations and to facilitate the funding they receive from donors. Finally, the panellists agreed that the next ECOSOC HAS should include more local actors in the discussion and to “talk more with them than about them”.

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4.9. Humanitarian Assistance Operations in High Risk Environments
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): OCHA, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and the Jindal School for International Affairs (India)

Objective: Discuss practical challenges to operational presence in humanitarian crises, and recommendations to humanitarians, Member States, donors and parties to conflict to adopt so that people in need can access the basics they need to survive and be safer.

Moderator: Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panel: Mr. Jan Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council; Mr. Vincent Lelei, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia; Ms. Ashley Jackson and Mr. Steve Zyck, researchers and co-authors of the study Presence and Proximity

Discussion:
In 2011, OCHA published a landmark study, To Stay and Deliver, which collected and documented humanitarian organizations’ good practices in deploying and delivering relief in highly insecure environments. The report provided advice and recommendations in critical response areas, such as how to manage risk, build responsible partnerships, adhere to humanitarian principles, and build acceptance and negotiations with relevant actors. The report advocated for further cultural change approach’ towards adopting more nimble, innovative ways to stay and provide assistance despite the odds.

In 2017, OCHA, NRC and the JSIA are launching a follow-up study Presence and Proximity: To Stay and Deliver, Five Years On, which outlines changes to the operational environment since 2011, with recommendations to the humanitarian and donor communities.

Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator asked if five years on, while we have become better at “staying” in many complex security environments, we are really “delivering” to the extent required.

Mr. O’Brien underlined four particularly striking findings of the report: First, acceptance remains essential to ensuring the security of humanitarian workers and maintaining presence, including talking to local communities and other stakeholders as well as parties to conflict. Second, we need humanitarian action immune from political interference. Third, the study finds that remote management approaches are increasingly used by humanitarian actors as a default option in highly insecure environments. While remote approaches may help humanitarian actors to gain or maintain presence, they also generate significant risks and may undermine the quality of protection and humanitarian programmes. They must therefore remain a last resort. Fourth, the
study makes the case for integrating security and programming and strengthening risk management.

Ms. Ashley Jackson and Mr. Steve Zyck presented some of the key findings and recommendations of the new study. Mr. Jan Egeland focused his remarks on protection by presence. He emphasised that the focus on protection cannot be done remotely.

Mr. Vincent Lelei emphasized that access should be recognized as a priority and not just an add-on, as is the case today.

Key findings and recommendations of the report were discussed further by the panelists, including on the following areas:

- Acceptance by local communities remains essential to ensure security of humanitarian workers and presence.
- Strategies need to be better transitioned and translated at office and sub-office levels.
- Humanitarian action should be immune and distinct from other agendas (e.g. counterterrorism agenda).
- Governments’ security concerns are legitimate, but how can humanitarian capacity and space be preserved?
- Remote management is a default option; it must remain last resort.
- Humanitarian programmes, risk management, and capacity building must be better integrated.
- Financial and normative resources must be provided and accessible to support the safety and security of frontline humanitarian workers (in particular local and national staff).
- Humanitarian actors must prioritise and invest in context and stakeholder analysis and humanitarian negotiations.
- Humanitarian actors, with donor support, should increase programmatic emphasis on protection.
The CRRF – Potentially a Game Changer in Large Scale and Protracted Refugee Situations
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Germany and UNHCR

Objective: (1) Discuss the implications of the practical roll-out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) for humanitarian, development and political actors involved in refugee response; (2) Reflect how the respective actors need to adapt their way of working in order to tap CRRF’s full potential as a game changer for addressing and potentially preventing large refugee situations; (3) Present the CRRF to a broader public and discuss how the different actors can concretely contribute to a more coordinated, comprehensive and effective refugee response.

Chair: Mr. Tristan Burnett, PSEA Global Project Coordinator, IOM

Moderator: Mr. Daniel Endres, Director for Comprehensive Responses, UNHCR

Panel: H.E. Ms. Antje Leendertse, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Office of the United Nations and to the other International Organizations in Geneva; Mr. Eyob Awoke, Director of Programme and Deputy Director for Refugee and Returnee Affairs, ARRA; Ms. Melissa Pitotti, Head of Policy, ICVA

Discussion:
In his opening remarks, the Director for Comprehensive Responses at UNHCR underlined the urgency of having predictable and comprehensive responses to today’s large scale refugee movements. He explained the background of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), UNHCR’s role in it and its main pillars and features. The whole-of-society approach is a crucial aspect in its implementation as every actor needs to contribute, while UNHCR merely facilitates and coordinates the implementation of the CRRF. Global responsibility sharing and the generation of the necessary resources are important elements for a successful application of the CRRF as well.

The Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva stressed Germany’s support for the CRRF and for UNHCR’s role in initiating and developing it, recognizing that development actors should come in early at the outbreak of a refugee crisis. It is important to safeguard humanitarian spaces and principles. She commended the Ethiopian Government for its ambitious commitments at the Leader’s Summit on Refugees on 19 September 2016, as well as the active implementation of those commitments within the CRRF. Germany itself is also following up on its commitments and has increased humanitarian funding fourfold.

The Director of Programme at Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) described Ethiopia’s open door policy, based on a long-standing tradition of hospitality, international
obligations related to refugees and the foreign policy goal of creating and maintaining stability in neighbouring countries. The CRRF must be applied through a commitment to ensure self-reliance of refugees, which Ethiopia supports. The country’s commitments are currently being translated into a road map and the legal framework is being adapted to the application of the CRRF. The Director sees the CRRF as a game changer. According to him, the refugee response has not worked over the last decades and has only led to refugee dependency on humanitarian assistance. The integration of refugees is thus crucial and benefits host countries and communities alike. Ethiopia is integrating such efforts into existing government structures in order to make them more sustainable.

The Head of Policy at ICVA spoke about how the CRRF is already a vehicle for change and presented some essential points for the success of the CRRF. These include defining the whole-of-society approach; translating the CRRF into plain language; communication; localising and globalizing the discussion simultaneously; focusing on women and girls; delivering with humanitarian speed and development depth; defining a path towards predictable responsibility sharing; adjusting the outlook and strengthening protection and solutions.

Interventions from the audience focused on funding, the link between humanitarian and development actors and on cooperation within the whole-of-society approach. UNDP expressed its commitment to supporting the practical application of CRRF and offered 3 key areas of support: (1) leveraging its long-standing partnerships with Government and key line ministries to help ensure that Governments are in the driving seat of comprehensives responses; 2) in-country implementation with focus on laying the basis for sustainable solutions and support to host communities; 3) helping to better include refugees in local and national services and development plans.
Sponsor(s): Switzerland, Colombia, Canada, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, and Slovakia

Objective: (1) Discuss national level implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2286, and the responding letter by the UN Secretary-General, the role of governments, as well as regional and global approaches; (2) Provide concrete perspectives for implementation from a variety of civilian and military vantage points.

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Panel: H.E. Ambassador Beatriz Londoño Soto, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva; Mr. Alexandre Faite, Head of the ICRC Delegation in Yemen (by video link); Mr. François Delfosse, Head of the MSF Mission for Syria and Iraq; Maj Gen (retired) Roger Van Hoof, Secretary-General, International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)

Discussion:
The context for the side-event is the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2286 condemning attacks on the medical mission and the letter by the UN Secretary-General spelling out recommendations on implementation. The chair, panelists and audience highlighted the urgency to act, the relevance of UNSCR 2286 and the concrete possibility for numerous measures that States and humanitarian actors can take to further promote the protection of the medical mission. Both a normative approach, focusing on advocacy, the respect for international humanitarian law and a restatement of applicable norms, as well as pragmatic measures, were needed. Participants emphasized the opportunities for follow-up on the resolution, including informal discussions among a broad range of States, as well as the need for more systematic condemnation of attacks. The non-criminalization of principled humanitarian action, the importance of further work within the UN Security Council, as well as the need to involve Ministries beyond Foreign Affairs, including Defense, were also mentioned.

At the international level, examples were given of how States can raise awareness on the resolution and push for updates on its follow-up. At the national level, participants discussed the potential of the revision of national legislation, improved data collection, and sharing of good practices. The creation of dedicated confidence building measures was put forward, such as a national roundtable or consultation committee, to gradually create trust among civilian, military and humanitarian actors and to provide a space for dialogue on matters such as the protection of the medical mission. Such endeavors take time, but may ultimately lead to a joint insight into the shared vulnerabilities of all when the medical mission is under attack.
Military actors, often absent from such discussions, may also contribute to the protection of the medical mission. Participants discussed how military forces and armed non-State groups can reinforce training on international humanitarian law and particularly include concrete exercises on the medical mission in their standard training, for instance the control of ambulances at check points. Rules of engagement and Standard Operating Procedures may also need to be reviewed and clear reporting lines established. Participants also pointed out measures to improve communication between humanitarian actors and military or armed groups, such as “deconfliction” mechanisms, hot lines, non-strike lists and additional visual marking of medical facilities in the aim of reducing the risk of attacks on the medical mission.
4.12. Humanitarian Financing Towards Aid Effectiveness: Grand Bargain One Year Outcome
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and OCHA

Objective: (1) Advocate for greater humanitarian system efficiency through a transformed humanitarian financing strategy; (2) Showcase achievements and best practices of the Grand Bargain implementation.

Chair: Ms. Ursula Muller, Assistant Secretary-General, OCHA

Panel: Mr. Jan Egeland, Secretary General, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC); Ms. Monique Pariat, Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission; Mr. Nick Van Praag, Director, Ground Truth Solution; Ms. Julia Steets, Director, Global Public Policy Institute (GPPI)

Discussion:
At the World Humanitarian Summit, donors and humanitarian organisations agreed to work together to increase efficiencies in delivering humanitarian aid, and reduce humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability by delivering on new commitments, including the Grand Bargain. One year after the Summit, the first annual independent Grand Bargain report served as a progress review of these commitments including harmonizing reporting templates, reducing overhead costs, improving joint and coordinated needs assessments, and earmarking less funding to specific projects. Some donors announced plans to increase fund allocation for cash-based programming, and multi-year humanitarian grants for multi-year plans.

The side-event discussed Grand Bargain progress and the gap between work-streams and individual commitments. Ms. Julia Steets (GPPI) stated that “while we understand that organizations first focus on their priorities, there is great risk that the more difficult commitments may remain orphaned.” According to surveys, there is a disconnect between the field staff and beneficiaries’ perceptions. From the field perspective, more work needs to be done to deliver effective solutions. The importance of innovation was emphasized. Islamic social funding and private funding were highlighted as avenues for innovation.

The Grand Bargain is a part of global humanitarian system reform. Long-term vision and global review are required for its success. Although momentum has been created, it must be sustained. Ms. Monique Pariat said that ECHO is strongly committed to the Grand Bargain, citing multi-year funding is up to 15/20%. ECHO is looking for partners to pilot this approach. ECHO also supports scaling up cash interventions and promoting needs assessments.

Humanitarian financing transformations should be translated into concrete operational deliverables. Therefore, the implementation of Grand Bargain outcomes must be tested in the field. The savings should then be reinvested in the humanitarian programming.
During the discussions from the floor, the following issues were highlighted:

- Priority to be placed on localization and consultation with humanitarian coordinators, particularly regarding good cases.

- Planning should be done with a finance strategy attached.

- Focus on collective outcomes and improved coordination. Greater use of cash and transparency are key areas that CBPFs could support.

In conclusion, Grand Bargain commitments from all are essential; as highlighted, the bargain is by all and for all. The participation of the beneficiaries and the field staff is critical for ensuring the positive impact of the humanitarian transformations initiated at the World Humanitarian Summit, including cash-based programming and localization.

More than ever, the Humanitarian Aid Effectiveness commitments can only be advanced with the active engagement of Member States, donor representatives and aid organizations. The implementation of Grand Bargain commitments, and more broadly, humanitarian financing transformations, should be translated into concrete operational deliverables and contribute to improve the well-being of people affected by crises.
4.13. Advancing the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Australia, Finland, United Kingdom, Handicap International, International Disability Alliance (IDA), and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Objective: Discuss: (1) Current gaps in emergency response in terms of full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action; (2) Collective ways forward, including by contributing to the development of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Moderator: Ms. Valerie Scherrer, independent expert

Panel: Mr. Giampiero Griffo, Chairperson of the Italian Network on Disability and Development (RIDS); Ms. Vivian Alt, Advocacy Advisor, Handicap International Iraq; Kirstin Lange, Senior Disability Advisor, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Discussion:
Summary and key outcomes: The Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, launched at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, gathers almost 160 endorsers including several States, the European Commission, UN agencies, the ICRC and IFRC, national and international networks, NGOs and organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs). The Charter is a tool to implement article 11 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and identifies five core principles: non-discrimination, participation, inclusive policy, inclusive response and services, cooperation and coordination. While its focus is on humanitarian action, it contains clear linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and recalls international humanitarian law and human rights law.

The side-event was an opportunity to advance the discussion on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action initiated by the Charter, hear about the challenges faced by people with disabilities in crisis context, and discuss ways to support inclusion. It was also an opportunity for States and organizations to share views and emphasize good practices and recommendations on how to implement the principles the Charter and identify collective ways forward. The development of IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action was widely recognized as a key next step to support inclusion at field level. The need to keep on advocating on the Charter at international, national and local level, as well as towards States, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations, was also highlighted in order to ensure inclusion of persons with disability becomes a reality in humanitarian action.

Ms. Vivian Alt (Handicap International) shared her field experience, pointing to the main barriers faced by persons with disabilities in Iraq:
- A lack of identification of persons with disabilities and data disaggregated by disability: She remarked that the existing tools such as the Washington Group Set of Disability Questions are not sufficiently used by humanitarian actors on the ground. Difficulties are also due to the stigma related to disabilities.

- Protection concerns especially during displacement: Persons with disabilities are more exposed to risks due to difficulties to move, communicate, and their dependence from caregivers. They are more impacted by family separations, violence, problems during security screenings and other situations of stress and queues.

- Exclusion from basic services such as WASH, food and health: Physical and communication barriers hamper access to refugee camps. Protection services do not have staff sensitized to dealing with persons with disabilities, or activities adapted to persons with disabilities.

Ms. Alt also insisted on the absolute necessity to operationalize the Charter’s principles on the ground and to involve people with disabilities in all the phases of the project cycle. She also expressed the need to make technical expertise available to support inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities when implementing projects in humanitarian contexts.

Mr. Giampiero Griffo introduced the work of RIDS in crisis contexts, and the support provided to the Italian government in ensuring their humanitarian response is inclusive of persons with disabilities, in line with the CRPD. Persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in situations of crisis, and humanitarian actors are still insufficiently taking into account their needs, rights and capacities, as called for by the Charter. Moreover, the number of persons with disabilities in crisis is most of the time highly underestimated and efforts should be made to strengthen the collection of data. Emergency planning should be designed to incorporate the diverse needs of persons with disabilities, and humanitarian staff should be aware of those needs and have the tools to ensure an appropriate response.

Ms. Kirstin Lange (UNHCR) focused on the ongoing development of Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action by a dedicated IASC Task Team, co-chaired by IDA, UNICEF and Handicap International, as one of the key outcomes of the Charter. The IASC Guidelines will support humanitarian actors to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in all sectors and at all stages of the humanitarian response. They will recognize the diversity among persons with disabilities and the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including on the basis of gender and age. They will eventually strengthen accountability to persons with disabilities in humanitarian emergencies, providing a framework for monitoring inclusion.

Stakeholders should contribute to the development of these Guidelines, especially humanitarian actors and organisations of persons with disabilities, particularly those representing marginalized groups such as women and people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.
As next steps, the IASC Task Team is planning to raise awareness on the Guidelines development in global clusters to increase the contribution of thematic experts across the sectors. Field and online consultations will be launched later this year to gather the voices of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders.

During the roundtable debate, the main following issues were raised:

- Need to take into account persons with disabilities from the planning phase of any humanitarian response throughout design and implementation, to ensure protection.

- All relevant stakeholders have to endorse the Charter and they stressed their support to the development of the IASC Guidelines. Finland also noted that new ways and best practices should be identified to include women and girls with disabilities. The United Kingdom is supporting the testing of the Washington Group Set of Disability Questions and the Age and Disability Capacity Programme (ADCAP). The United Kingdom is also pressing for an indicator in core funding to UN agencies on disability inclusion. Luxembourg encouraged other States to endorse the Charter. Luxembourg is especially concerned about invisible disabilities such as mental health or intellectual disabilities.

- Thailand stressed the importance of on protection and prevention and mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and disaster management into all relevant frameworks. Thailand engages persons with disabilities as active actors in the humanitarian response.

- The Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC) pointed to its leading role on the integration of gender and gender-based violence considerations across guidelines and sectors. WRC identified the development of Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees as a key opportunity to ensure the full inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) recalled the strategic framework on disability inclusion recently adopted by the Movement. ICRC has many ongoing projects related to persons with disabilities and is developing new projects related to disaggregated data collection, human resources policies that encourage the recruitment of persons with disability, and sharing of good practices, especially working with persons with disabilities and DPOs.

- Christian Aid highlighted how it is applying the principles of the Charter through the ADCAP project, providing inclusion advisors in Kenya and the United Kingdom, and by supporting the Handicap Union.

- The Start Network described some of the practical examples of inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, for example the role of inclusion advisors in Pakistan and the need for protection mainstreaming in conflict zones.
- UNICEF stressed that children with disabilities represent one of the most marginalized groups in situations of armed conflicts and disasters, and are highly exposed to the risk of violence. UNICEF developed new guidelines on “Including Children with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action”, and is highly involved in the development of IASC Guidelines.

- CBM International highlighted some good practices on the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, including the inclusive response to the earthquake in Nepal.

- WHO focused its intervention on psychosocial disabilities, pointing to the fact that good integration between the disability community and the mental psychosocial support community is still missing.

- Care International expressed their commitment to the Charter and stressed that it wants to ensure awareness around the need to mainstream disability through all levels of their organisation by fostering internal capacity.

- UNMAS touched upon victim assistance, especially to survivors of explosive weapons, which is a current component to UNMAS programmes in Iraq, Syria, Mali, Gaza and Afghanistan.
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Argentina, France, Senegal, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Objective: Shed light on how certain rules that were clarified, codified and developed in the Additional Protocols, can guide humanitarian actors and military actors.

Panel: Professor Marco Sassòli, Professor of International Law and Director of the Department of International Law and International Organization at the University of Geneva; Colonel Nathalie Durhin, Legal Adviser, Inspector General of the Air Forces, French Ministry of Defence; Mr. Robert Mardini, Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, ICRC.

Discussion:
France, Senegal and Argentina opened and closed the event. They placed the discussion on the Additional Protocols against the backdrop of contemporary armed conflicts where we are seeing a complex web of parties, prolonged fighting and heavy civilian casualties. They affirmed the importance of abiding by International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in these contexts, stressing that the challenge was the lack of implementation of these rules. In this regard, support was expressed for the initiative to strengthen respect for IHL, which is being co-facilitated by the ICRC and Switzerland. There was also a call for more States to ratify the Additional Protocols.

Professor Marco Sassòli provided a historical and legal perspective on the Additional Protocols and what they brought to IHL. The Additional Protocols reaffirmed IHL rules in a new diplomatic environment. Secondly, the Protocols clarified and developed important rules, for instance with respect to the conduct of hostilities, and expanded IHL to non-international armed conflicts. Importantly, they were developed to ensure that rules were adapted to the realities on the ground, including to new technological developments. In terms of challenges and gaps, Professor Sassòli highlighted the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms and the need to have more detailed rules with respect to non-international armed conflicts.

Colonel Nathalie Durhin explained how rules for the conduct of hostilities codified in the Additional Protocols are used in the planning and execution of military operations in urban warfare. Col. Durhin explained how these rules guide the targeting process, specifically in the determination of military objectives and in collateral damage estimates. This is particularly important in the context of urban warfare given the physical proximity between civilians and combatants and between military objectives and civilian objects. Col. Durhin also highlighted how the collection of intelligence to understand the environment in which the operation will take place and the choice of weapons and procedures to suspend or cancel operations are important aspects in the practical application of the principle of precaution. In terms of challenges, she discussed the
practical relevance of distinguishing between international armed conflict (IAC) and non-international armed conflict (NIAC). She pointed out how French armed forces try as much as possible to apply IAC rules in NIAC, as they offer greater detail and clarity. The Additional Protocols place a heavy responsibility on commanders on a day-to-day basis, but they bring both clarity and flexibility to the planning and execution of military operations and their spirit remains highly relevant in today’s wars.

Mr. Robert Mardini spoke about how rules related to access and delivery of humanitarian aid play out daily on the ground. Humanitarian access and the provision of humanitarian relief require dialogue at all times, not only if access and delivery are threatened or restricted – there is no automatic “right of access” for humanitarian relief. The Additional Protocols give humanitarian actors and parties to the conflict important ground rules to guide this dialogue. It was against this background that he explained ICRC’s approach of building a constructive dialogue and relationships with all relevant parties in a confidential manner, to gain consent as well as to promote trust and support for its activities.

The ensuing discussion with participants focused mainly on humanitarian access, and more specifically what to do when such access is “arbitrarily” refused; whether consent should always be a pre-condition for humanitarian access; and what to do when conditions such as armed protection for humanitarian convoys are imposed. Mr. Robert Mardini elaborated on the ICRC’s rationale for always seeking consent of the parties to deliver humanitarian assistance. For the ICRC, consent is not only needed because there is no automatic “right of access” to humanitarian assistance. It is also needed because without it the provision of humanitarian relief is unsustainable and raises security risks for humanitarians and beneficiaries. When asked what they would improve in the Additional Protocols if they were being negotiated today, panelists highlighted two issues: further developing the rules for non-international armed conflict and an effective enforcement mechanism.
4.15. Preventing Human Trafficking among Crisis-Affected Populations in Emergency Settings
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in persons

Objective: (1) Increase the understanding of the drivers of trafficking in emergency settings; and (2) Discuss approaches to the development of indicators on trafficking among crisis-affected communities

Moderator: Ms. Federica Donati, Support Team of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, OHCHR, Geneva

Panel: Ms. Megan Hjelle-Lantsman, Program Officer, US Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; Ms. Renate Held, Director, Department of Migration Management, IOM Geneva; Dr. Madeline Garlick, Chief, Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section, Division of International Protection, UNHCR, Geneva; Dr. Hanni Stocklosa, Executive Director of HEAL Trafficking, ER Medical Doctor

Discussion:
Responding to human trafficking should be addressed and mainstreamed within the IASC Cluster System to ensure preparedness, as well as immediate, system-wide response from the outset of a humanitarian emergency. This is confirmed by research published in 2015-2016. Existing models for prevention and protection should be adapted to humanitarian settings; humanitarian actors should be trained to better prevent and respond to the needs of trafficked persons and better coordinate their responses. There needs to be an evidence-validated approach to gain a better understanding of risk and protective factors of those subject or potentially subject to trafficking. This should inform the development of indicators to not only help humanitarian actors identify and protect victims of trafficking, but also importantly devise preventive action.

The Office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, stressed that human disasters increase vulnerabilities to human trafficking. Trafficking and exploitation can occur from the onset of the crisis and throughout all phases of the migration cycle in a humanitarian setting, although these vulnerabilities remain often undetected and unaddressed.

The US Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons stressed that preventive responses should be implemented as soon as possible at the onset of crisis. Crisis-affected individuals and other vulnerable individuals should be targeted by these efforts. Moreover, it is critical that prevention activities are implemented even before there is actual evidence of trafficking.

UNHCR highlighted some elements to address human trafficking among refugees and asylum-seekers in crisis settings. First, an analysis of the specificity of each crisis should be carried out due
to the wide range of situations, as well as the interlinkages between national authorities and international and humanitarian actors; this might translate into different legal and policy guidelines that apply differently in each specific context. The cooperation between national authorities and international response mechanisms should also be considered at the onset of a crisis. Second, in the aftermath of an emergency, potential dangerous practices, sometimes already in place before a crisis, can intensify (e.g. child labor).

IOM noted that counter-trafficking activities must be undertaken before a crisis begins, at the very outset, throughout, and after the crisis has ended to make a response to human trafficking in crisis effective and to address the needs of victims and potential victims. More specifically, IOM indicated that whenever possible, counter-trafficking activities must be initiated before the onset of a crisis to allow for the development of contingency mechanisms and preparedness planning. As confirmed by IOM’s studies and operational responses, such as in the aftermath of the Nepalese earthquake of 2015, counter-trafficking activities, specifically focused on prevention, must be initiated as soon as possible within the crisis to reduce the risks of exposure to trafficking of affected populations. Counter-trafficking activities must be carried out after the crisis too to learn from the good practice that might have emerged during the response. Finally, IOM stressed that human trafficking in crisis is a cross-cutting issue, which needs in depth understanding and joint efforts from humanitarian and development actors, including local government and non-governmental institutions, on how to respond effectively.

Harvard University stressed the importance of data, which can and should be used to tackle human trafficking through the formulation of effective, evidence-based prevention strategies and the creation of evidence-based operational guidance in response, and prevention by mapping of previous work done in the field and challenges as well as protection gaps encountered.

The side-event presented an opportunity to bring a renewed focus on the issue of trafficking in crisis and to raise awareness and seek support from Member States and other relevant actors.
Sponsor(s): Germany, United Kingdom, WFP, UNICEF, and the German Red Cross

Objective: Present and discuss innovations within the humanitarian system, especially in the context of early warning and early action, food security, risk reduction and humanitarian response. To this aim, the side-event showcased examples on how humanitarian donors and organizations can support innovations to operationalize the different reform processes of the humanitarian system

Chair and Moderator: Mr. Tristan Burnett, PSEA Global Project Coordinator, IOM

Panel: Mr. Thorsten Klose-Zuber, Desk Officer Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office, Germany; Mr. Dylan Winder, Counsellor, United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in Geneva; Mr. Robert Opp, Director of Innovation and Change Management, World Food Programme; Mr. Manuel Fontaine, Emergency Director, UNICEF; Ms. Alexandra Rüth, Head of Climate Change Task Team, German Red Cross

Discussion:
The side-event presented and discussed a broad range of innovations and new approaches to humanitarian assistance. WFP presented the work of its Innovation Accelerator, which is based in Munich and supported by Germany. The WFP Innovation Accelerator identifies and nurtures innovative ideas and turns them into scalable opportunities. So far, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has supported over 150 internal and external innovative ideas, such as digital tools for smallholder farmers, cutting-edge block chain technology to improve cash-based transfers, as well as mobile and data innovations to better collect food security data from communities in real-time.

UNICEF underlined that it is exploring innovative pre-financing mechanisms that provide solutions for donors and beneficiaries, in line with its Grand Bargain commitments. UNICEF presented an interagency research supported by DFID, which suggests that every $1 spent on preparedness in high risk situations saves a median of $1.50 and an average of $2.60 towards the next emergency. The following discussion also pointed out that humanitarian response would be more cost effective and efficient if early preparedness investments were better matched with the existing early warning signals and the risk situation on the ground.

The presentation of the Forecast-based Financing approach by the German Red Cross was fully in line with this suggestion to better operationalize existing early warning signals for an anticipatory and therefore innovative humanitarian assistance. Since 2014, the German Federal Foreign Office is supporting the development of the Forecast-based Financing approach, which uses extreme weather forecasts to enable the timely disbursement of funding for preparedness actions before
potential disaster happens and the ongoing pilot projects in Peru, Bangladesh, Mozambique and the Philippines were presented.

During the discussion, it was mentioned that there is a need to focus innovation not only in the natural disaster contexts, but also to do more in conflict contexts.

The discussion underlined the importance to strengthen the use of social media and big data as well as the involvement of the private sector, such as insurances, to enable innovative risk-financing approaches in humanitarian assistance. It was discussed that, especially in the context of preparedness and risk reduction, there are many innovative approaches that are cost-effective and able to reduce the risks and vulnerability factors of communities, especially in the context of climate change. In this regard, there were discussions about how to get more development actors interested in preparedness, while ensuring that risk reduction work by humanitarian stakeholders is guided by the humanitarian principles.

The side-event concluded by underlining that promising innovations can only have the potential to be mainstreamed into the humanitarian system, if donors and organizations are willing to take risks of investing in such new ideas and show institutional flexibility.
4.17. Impact of Counter-Terrorism Measures on Humanitarian Action
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Switzerland, the Harvard Law School/Program on International Law and Armed Conflict, and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Objective: The side-event, a follow-up of the event organized in 2014 by OCHA and NRC, aims at presenting and discussing the results of the study and possible ways forward to find concrete solutions to very real challenges.

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Heidi Grau, Head of the Human Security Division, Political Directorate, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Moderator: Prof. Naz Modirzadeh, Harvard Law School, Program on International Law and Armed Conflict

Panel: Dr. Tristan Ferraro, Senior Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); Ms. Kate McGrane, Senior Humanitarian Policy Adviser, Geneva Office of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

Discussion:
Counter-terrorism measures are an important means to protect the civilian population in armed conflict. However, there are also potential adverse effects of such measures on the ability of humanitarian organizations to serve people in need. In three of the four contexts where famine is currently looming, armed groups control access to the population, and may be controlling affected territory. This can have a considerable impact on the ability of humanitarian organizations to operate, various tightened due diligence measures in grant agreements, or significant obstacles to programming and implementing humanitarian engagements, including negotiating access to the civilian population living in areas controlled by proscribed groups. In the current context, as the Grand Bargain foresees that humanitarian action should increasingly make use of cash transfers, and as localization is one of modalities to increase efficiency, the challenges posed by counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action are likely to become even more relevant.

Over the past five years, there has been considerable research, policy engagement, and debate on this issue. Yet, there has been a lack of empirical or measurable evidence of the impact of counterterrorism laws and policies on humanitarian action. The Harvard Law School’s Program on International Law and Armed Conflict has conducted a pilot empirical study to quantify the consequences of counter-terrorism measures for humanitarian action. This pilot study provides significant insights into the factors which could hamper or impede effective humanitarian action where groups designated as terrorist control territory or access to affected populations. The study indicates that there is considerable confusion among humanitarian organizations, but also among donor and recipient states, about the legal and practical requirements for effective humanitarian action in such contexts.
Among others, the study suggests that humanitarian actors experience a real impact of counter-terrorism measures, which may chill, if not alter or stop, humanitarian programs. It also suggests that humanitarian organizations are not clear about the possible implications of counter-terrorism measures. This indicates that possible avenues for solutions should not only be discussed among humanitarian actors, but also with donors and affected states. The panelists concurred that, while agreeing that countering terrorism is crucial, it is at the same time particularly important that states ensure that counter-terrorism measures do not impede and/or criminalize principled humanitarian action and that the measures are compatible with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

One of the possibilities to address the very real challenges are humanitarian exemptions. It is important to note that the European Union has recently included a humanitarian exemption in a directive on combatting terrorism (Directive (EU) 2017/541, pp 37 and 38).

Broad counter-terrorism clauses in funding agreements, which may impede principled humanitarian action, may constitute another problematic aspect. Impartial assistance and protection activities, including detention work and engagements for persons hors de combat need to remain possible. Possible avenues for solutions to the dilemmas are for example shared risk between donors and humanitarian organizations and robust risk management frameworks. Each major donor has separate lists of designated armed groups and different requirements, the efforts of humanitarian organizations to comply become more and more cumbersome. Therefore, one avenue to pursue could also be a streamlining of requirements.

It was stressed that humanitarian principles are crucial, because they lay a basis for confidence building, acceptance and proximity, which is in turn paramount for security and access of humanitarian actors. NRC provided examples of discussions on the impact of counter-terrorism measures in Iraq, Yemen, Syria as well as Afghanistan and called for in-depth discussions on acceptable risks and risk-sharing.

It was also noted that there is still not sufficient knowledge among States and humanitarian organizations about the intersection of counter-terrorism measures and principled humanitarian action. There are hesitations to discuss the issue because of its sensitivity and complexity. The counter-terrorism environment is constantly evolving. Therefore, it is crucial to continue to raise awareness, inform and invite discussion with a view to finding solutions.

The Chair concluded that the topic is gaining traction and that there are real operational impacts, which need to be addressed. Switzerland will continue the discussion among States and with humanitarian organizations, which should share their experiences. Ideally, Switzerland, together with other interested states, would develop an initiative similar to the Good Humanitarian Donorship, to address the challenges.
4.18. Placing Youth at the Forefront of Humanitarian Action and the 2030 Agenda
22 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Denmark, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, UNICEF, Women’s Refugee Commission, Save the Children, IPPF, and Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises and Care

Objective: (1) Define pertinent and underlying barriers to the protection and empowerment of youth in humanitarian crises, including access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in humanitarian settings, and ways for these to be addressed, also from a humanitarian-development nexus perspective; (2) Explore ways to ensure that youth are enabled to play a positive and active role in humanitarian crises; (3) Recognize young people as indispensable stakeholders, decision makers, problem solvers, and humanitarian actors, democratic agents of change and drivers of resilience in humanitarian action.

Chair: H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

Moderator: Ms. Monica Ferro, Director fo Geneva Office, UNFPA

Panel: Ms. Muna Abdel Halim, Youth representative, UNFPA; Mr. Philip Lee Jaatun, Co-chair Save the Children Youth Denmark; Ms. Anushka Kalyanpur, Technical Specialist SRH in Emergencies with CARE and co-chair of the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Working Group of the IAWG for Reproductive Health in Crises; Ms. Louise Aubin, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

Discussion: In order to realize the full potential of young people, we need to advance the engagement of youth in humanitarian action, by empowering them with the capacity, knowledge and skills to lead the 2030 Agenda as key humanitarian actors and leaders.

The discussion among panelists focused on the barriers to protection and empowerment of youth in humanitarian crises and on what needs to be done to enable youth to fulfil their potential as agents of change.

The following issues were raised:

Barriers

- General protection gaps, lack of needs assessment mechanisms and investments addressing the needs of youth and adolescents in emergencies
Adolescents and youth are often not involved in design, implementation, and monitoring of the programs that are intended to reach them.

Adolescents are often seen as a homogenous group with the same set of challenges and needs – when in fact they are a very diverse group with differing needs and potentials.

Lack of disaggregated data on age and gender in humanitarian crises.

**Best practices**

- Innovation, employment and entrepreneurship in humanitarian settings
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms to accelerate synergies – the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Settings an example hereof
- Scaling up and increasing investments in gender-responsive programs that are tailored to young people’s diverse needs and potential; build their capacity and life skills; address their psychosocial needs; advance their access to quality education and decent livelihood; disaggregate data
- Advancing the meaningful engagement of youth, inter alia by establishing youth advisory councils, youth departments or employing youth advisers and ensuring that programs are relevant to young people
- Providing tools and guides, such as the ASRH toolkit in emergencies by UNFPA & Save the Children, and conducting consultations with youth, as by WRC’s and UNHCR’s Global Youth Consultations in 2016

Discussants reflected upon the importance of investing in youth to break down silos. Several participants, including WRC, Save the Children, IFRC, IPPF, UNICEF and UNAIDS presented findings from their own work with youth.

H.E. Ambassador Carsten Staur, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, concluded by highlighting Denmark’s commitment to prioritize youth as a diverse group with complex needs and reiterated the need for empowering young people – especially when it comes to advancing their sexual and reproductive health and rights – and its potential for creating synergies in the humanitarian and development nexus.
4.19. One Year After the World Humanitarian Summit: Advancing the Agenda for Humanity
23 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): OCHA

Objective: Identify key achievements and challenges emerging as the commitments and initiatives are taken forward to advance the Agenda for Humanity, and stress the importance of maintaining focus and momentum to deliver better results for people in the coming years.

Chair: Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panel: H.E. Ambassador Hasan Ulusoy, Director-General for Multilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey; Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur, Presidential Counsellor on Human Rights for Colombia; Mr. Imran Madden, Islamic Relief, UK Director (representative of the Charter for Change initiative); Ms. Dilakshinee Angunawela, Manager of Advocacy and Psychosocial Support, Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management in Sri Lanka (representative of the Connecting Business Initiative, Sri Lanka Network)

Discussion:
Mr. O’Brien stressed the importance of the Agenda for Humanity as a framework to link humanitarian action with the Secretary-General’s priorities on prevention; connect individual commitments and initiatives with a broader, transformative vision; and assess collective progress and maintain political momentum for the change agenda set at the World Humanitarian Summit.

138 stakeholders submitted voluntary self-reports to date, covering over 60 per cent of the 3,700 commitments pledged at the Summit. These reports will inform the first annual synthesis report on WHS follow-up, and are available on the Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformation (PACT). Several trends are emerging from the reports, including the New Way of Working to bridge the humanitarian-development divide, multi-stakeholder action to reinforce national and local response capacities and decision-making, and financing approaches that reduce risk and vulnerability in the long-term. This was only the beginning, and more was needed to bring about transformation and ensure even implementation. This includes having more joined-up planning, multi-year frameworks toward collective outcomes, context-specific coordination methods, and improved financing that enables true change, in partnership with a broader spectrum of actors beyond the humanitarian community. The Summit also mobilized initiatives that have begun to deliver results on the ground, including Education Cannot Wait, the Connecting Business initiative, the Grand Bargain, and the Charter for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities. Mr. O’Brien closed by underling that people in crisis asked for change.

H.E. Ambassador Hasan Ulusoy (Turkey) spoke about “working differently to end need” (Core Responsibility 4), which received the highest number of commitments and was a priority for Turkey,
and the importance of the Commitment to Action (now referred to as the New Way of Working – NWOW) to advance this Core Responsibility. Since the Summit, Turkey has been an active champion of the NWOW and recently hosted a workshop on this in Istanbul. Ambassador Ulusoy also noted that operationalizing the NWOW is an essential component of the Secretary-General’s reform efforts and has been an integral part of response in the four countries faced with famine. He highlighted that collective engagement, strong leadership, institutional reforms and greater empowerment of national and local actors were needed to make the NWOW “living and sustainable”. Ambassador Ulusoy also encouraged the collection of good practice and the exchange of experiences to further entrench implementation of the NWOW in the field.

Ms. Paula Gaviria Betancur noted that Colombia’s World Humanitarian Summit commitment to end its protracted conflict has been achieved, resulting in a decrease of hundreds of thousands of displacements and the avoidance of at least 3,000 deaths due to the peace process. Colombia used a similar approach to the NWOW to move forward and develop collective outcomes that reduce the vulnerabilities of internally displaced people, support the government to provide them with greater opportunities and strengthened resilience. The Colombian assistance and reparation program for victims concentrates efforts to serve those who need it most, and to facilitate access to the integral reparation of those most vulnerable. Ms. Betancur underscored the value of the Final Peace Agreement in tackling both the causes and consequence of armed conflict. As a result, displacement figures dropped by 90 per cent between 2002 and 2016. More is needed to maintain technical and financial support, bring together stakeholders in support of collective outcomes, strengthen institutional capacities and knowledge transfer, and strengthen coordination between different agencies of the UN system and other actors.

Mr. Imran Madden (Islamic Relief) provided an account of implementation of the Charter for Change, launched at the Summit as a set of 8 joint commitments to enable more locally led responses in the areas of funding, partnership, representation, human resources and advocacy. Twenty-nine international NGOs signed up to the Charter for Change and 130 national actors endorsed the initiative. Implementation of the Charter varies per commitment and across signatory organizations with the most progress noted on the commitment to provide 20 per cent of funding to NGOs by May 2018 (the average is 24 per cent, with the range across signatories fluctuating between 4-88 per cent). Other highlights include: 14 signatories transferred USD 203,553,282 to a combination of local and national partners in 2016; CAFOD reported that it shared 50 per cent of its earmarked administrative costs with partners; and CARE International developed medical protocols to make sure that credit and recognition were equitable. Challenges remained in tracking and reporting across all signatory organizations. Mr. Madden noted that his own organization, Islamic Relief, had patchy progress and that it needed to do more to adapt its business model to improve its partnership framework, beyond rhetoric or strategic/policy statements. The Charter for Change is still in the early days of implementation and progress can only be measured next year. Mr. Madden concluded by recommending that donors incentivize implementation of the Charter for Change commitments, and that all stakeholders take risks to do things differently and gain momentum by sharing good practice.
The floor was opened for questions and interventions. UNICEF gave an account of how it was advancing its WHS commitments. UNDP expressed its support for the NWOW and questioned how to institute a ‘mind shift’ change to make further progress. IRIN asked for more details on which areas/commitments had the most and least progress, not taking into account the Grand Bargain.

Panelists noted that inter-agency collaboration, leadership, time, funding, incentives, and risk-taking were needed to further make progress on the change agenda, particularly in instituting a ‘mind shift’ change. It was underscored that stakeholders should not avoid failure as sometimes you need to initially fail to secure long-term success; it was important to learn from any failings and to transfer knowledge across the system to allow for collective learning and action.

Mr. O’Brien commended the progress reported in taking forward the change agenda set in motion at the Summit and formally closed the session.
4.20. Meeting Urgent Humanitarian Needs: The UN Humanitarian Pooled Funds in the Post WHS Era
23 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): Germany and OCHA

Objective: Provide Member States and key stakeholders with a better understanding of how CERF and CBPFs have advanced World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain ambitions in areas such as more unearmarked funding, improved support to national/local responders, greater transparency and wider participation.

Chair and Moderator: Mr. Stephen O’Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Panel: H.E. Ambassador Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany; H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and Vice-President of ECOSOC; Mr. Eugene Owusu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator, and Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative, UNDP, South Sudan; Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP; Mr. James Keah Ninrew, Executive Director, Universal Intervention and Development Organization, South Sudan

Discussion: Over the past year, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) have played a key role in delivering against World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments, strengthening the humanitarian community’s ability to deliver timely, coordinated and principled assistance as an important step towards the global commitment to “leave no one behind”.

Mr. Stephen O’Brien gave opening remarks to highlight the importance of delivering against Grand Bargain commitments and provided examples on how CERF and CBPFs have helped advance World Humanitarian Summit ambitions. He offered the following topics for the discussion among panelists: comparative advantages of CERF and CBPFs to advance World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments; potential role of the larger CBPFs to prevent and respond to the 2016-17 famine; and how to resource OCHA’s pooled funds at a level that furthers WHS commitments.

H.E. Ambassador Sigmar Gabriel (Germany), in a recorded message, highlighted the pooled funds’ life-saving qualities and announced an additional Euro10 million contribution to CERF for 2017, bringing their total 2017 contribution to CERF to Euro 60 million.
H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz (ECOSOC Vice-President) stressed the importance of the pooled funds from the donor perspective, highlighting why CERF and CBPFs are an integral component of Germany’s humanitarian financing strategy and their commitment towards the Grand Bargain. He noted various issues of importance including: the strategic value of unearmarked funding, need for timely and speedy allocations, supporting inclusivity and leadership on the ground and the trust Germany has in CERF and CBPFs as “trust-worth” and “high-performance” financing mechanisms.

Mr. Amir Abdulla (WFP) delivered the perspective of a CERF and CBPF recipient stressing the importance of ensuring that the funds achieve their new funding targets quickly (US$1 billion annually for CERF and 15 per cent of Humanitarian Response Plan Funding for CBPFs). He explained that better resourced pooled funds would be used to greater effect in large-scale, protracted emergencies and bring efficiency gains, “which will benefit all, especially the people we are assisting.”

Mr. Eugene Owusu (DSRSG and RC/HC South Sudan) emphasized the role of CERF and CBPFs in strengthening his role as an RC/HC and in bolstering the collective humanitarian response in South Sudan. He noted that they: 1) enable rapid response to time-critical needs; 2) incentivize collective, needs-based, prioritization of the humanitarian response; 3) promote efficiency and encourage innovation; 4) are a vital source of funding for national and local frontline responders; and 5) can be leveraged to promote accountability to affected people, ensure the centrality of protection, and enhance gender-sensitive humanitarian action.

Mr. James Keah Ninrew (Universal Intervention and Development Organization) drew on his experience delivering life-saving assistance on the frontlines of the crisis in South Sudan to highlight the value of supporting national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). He stressed the importance of direct access to the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund and highlighted the inclusiveness of CERF and CBPF decision-making process: “Having a seat at the table means that [NGOs] are truly partners. It means we have a say in which sector gets the most funding and which geographic areas should be prioritized. And it means that our voices are valued and heard.”

The following issues were raised in the ensuing discussion with participants at the event:

- Norway noted the importance of complementarity between CERF and CBPFs in ensuring a timely and coordinated response to humanitarian crises and encouraged stronger “interplay” between both mechanisms. It urged Member States to provide additional funding to CERF. Norway announced recent/additional funding to CBPFs in DRC, Somalia and Sudan. Reiterated the importance of including local NGOs in CERF and CBPF funding decisions.

- The United Kingdom noted that pooled funds provide unique and vital support in strengthening leadership and decision-making in emergencies ensuring that critical unearmarked funds are used to address urgent needs in a timely, coordinated and principled manner. It also asked what more CERF and CBPFs can do to evidence their
unique position in advancing collective action around Grand Bargain commitments, particularly at the local level.

- Australia mentioned its recent $44 million multi-year commitment to CERF and encouraged other donors to follow suit. It observed that – following the panel discussion and the discussion held during the previous day’s ECOSOC HAS event on Grand Bargain and Financing – OCHA-managed pooled funds provided an answer to the question of how UN agencies can better collaborate around Grand Bargain reform and priorities, particularly in areas such as needs assessments and cash programming.

- Yemen shared experiences with CBPFs in the country noting that the situation in Yemen would be even more devastating without the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF). The YHF has set up best practices and has been used as a model for a locally set up pooled fund for national NGOs responding to cholera. Yemen also suggested easing of capacity requirements for national NGOs to access the YHF.

- Belgium emphasized that CERF plays an indispensable role to ensure that assistance goes to underfunded and forgotten crises. CBPFs ensure that their funds are used for humanitarian needs and gaps at country level. The pooled funds are import tools for operationalizing the Grand Bargain localization commitment. But to really achieve this goal, local NGOs will need to have more access to them.

- UNICEF echoed panelists’ points on how CERF and CBPFs advance the GB, including through improved timeliness, ensuring decision-making is informed by actors on the ground, flexibility to fill gaps, improved predictability, enhancing localization and broadening the door base. UNICEF believes if new CERF and CBPF funding targets are reached, these mechanisms can be effective tools in preventing and responding to situations like the famine witnessed in 2016 and 2017.

- Caritas England and Wales noted that one of the main ways for donors to live up to their Grand Bargain localization commitments is to channel funding through the CBPFs. While it is commendable that 24 per cent of CBPF allocations go directly to national NGOs, 76 per cent still goes to UN agencies and international NGOs.
Mr. Hansjoerg Strohmeyer opened the event noting the apparent paradox that while the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) is at an all-time high, the willingness of Member States to discuss the issue has declined in recent years. There is, therefore, a pressing need to take action to put IDPs back on the international agenda. This is all the more important because while the 2005 Humanitarian Reform Agenda has facilitated a more predictable response to the emergency needs of IDPs, we need to ensure better solutions over the long term, given the reality of protracted crises –conflict-related displacement now lasts close to two decades on average, and in some countries, entire generations live in uncertainty about their future, often facing severe hardship, a dependency on assistance, and threats to their safety and security. Protracted internal displacement is primarily a development and political challenge, not a humanitarian one. However, without clear exit strategies and the lack of involvement of development actors, humanitarians continue managing “humanitarian caseloads” year after year. This approach is not sustainable.

Mr. Strohmeyer noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development set a path to not just meet needs, but to reduce risk, vulnerability and overall levels of need of IDPs and other vulnerable populations. The World Humanitarian Summit proposed a new approach to address the political, social and economic consequences of protracted internal displacement. The purpose of the study, undertaken by Prof. Walter Kälin and Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat, is to document the impact of protracted internal displacement on IDPs, host communities, local and national Governments and articulate the key elements of this new approach.

The study was introduced by Prof. Kaelin who highlighted its key messages, notably that:
- Protracted displacement is principally a development challenge.

- There is a need to move early in protracted displacement and engage with a different set of actors at the national and local level, such as chambers of commerce etc.

- Cooperation needs to be strengthened across the UN humanitarian, political, and development divide in order to define realistic results in the form of agreement on collective outcomes.

- Participation of IDPs and host communities in the process of identifying and implementing collective outcomes is crucial.

- Governments should lead efforts to achieve collective outcomes in consultation and with the support of the humanitarian country team.

- Successful implementation of collective outcomes will depend on securing multi-year funding that, importantly, crosses the humanitarian-development divide.

- The UN must mobilize around this new approach and create the internal systems and processes that will allow it to deliver.

The discussion that followed considered efforts taken to implement this approach on the ground, with particular reference to Colombia, through the Victims Law, and also in Somalia where IDPs have been incorporated into the national development plan. As already stressed by Prof. Kaelin, participants also emphasized the fundamental importance of ensuring the participation of IDPs and host communities in efforts to implement the approach. Emphasis was placed on the need to recognize that displacement affects certain population groups differently (women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities) and these different needs and vulnerabilities must be taken into account by national and local authorities and humanitarian and development actors in their collective efforts to respond to protracted displacement.

The essential role of donor governments in providing funding for outcome-oriented programs was also stressed. It was noted that donors too would necessarily need to adapt their policies and practices in order to support the new approach. Relevant departments would need to work in a more coordinated and strategic way to address forced displacement and to allow for the possibility of joint humanitarian and development funding.

Emphasis was also placed on the importance of data and analysis, in terms of understanding the nature and extent of protracted displacement in a given context and more globally. In this regard, it was noted that protracted displacement should be seen as multi-dimensional and having different levels of severity. It was further noted that our understanding of the impact of protracted displacement is limited — that there has been inconsistent analysis and that the analysis that exists is mostly qualitative. While this has its uses, it is limited in that it provides a snap shot at different points in time. There is a need for more quantitative evidence of the impact of displacement on,
for example, the economy, education, and its impact for national governments. The development of a critical mass of case studies, that also include a longitudinal analysis, would be a major step forward.
4.22. Protection of Humanitarian Action: Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Aid Workers
23 June, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Sponsor(s): IASC secretariat and IASC Co-Champions on Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Aid Workers

Objective: Enhance the understanding of all stakeholders of existing IASC commitments, discuss actions taken by humanitarian agencies and Member States; (ii) highlight good practices, explore how to build on these, and identify ways to ensure that all humanitarian staff are aware of, and comply with, their rights to and their responsibilities for maintaining inclusive and respectful workplaces, free from all forms of sexual violence.

Moderator: Ms. Belinda Holdsworth, Chief of the IASC secretariat

Panel: Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and IASC Co-Champion on Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Aid Workers, OHCHR; Mr. Niels Scott, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia, UNDP; Ms. Megan Nobert, Director, Report the Abuse

Video Clip: Feinstein International Center: https://fic.wistia.com/medias/w6259gdtt6s

Discussion:
The nature of operating in conflict and disaster zones means that there are inherent dangers to humanitarian work. One critical risk that is not often discussed is that of sexual harassment and abuse of aid workers, despite growing evidence that sexual violence against aid workers is a genuine risk. This was highlighted by a recent survey conducted by the Humanitarian Women’s Network, by ongoing research from the Feinstein International Center, and through the work of the NGO Report the Abuse.

The IASC has committed to zero tolerance for discrimination, sexual harassment and abuse within all humanitarian work environments. IASC Principals have pledged to strengthen the overall institutional response on this issue, safeguarding the well-being of staff, addressing the climate of impunity and holding perpetrators to account, and strengthening policies, structures and accountability mechanisms.

Opening the discussion, Ms. Belinda Holdsworth (IASC secretariat) referenced the momentum built around the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse agenda, which aims at protecting the beneficiaries of aid. While the protection of aid workers themselves is often discussed, too often this ignores the ‘hidden threat’ of their sexual harassment and abuse of aid workers by other aid workers. Recent surveys and reports from the Feinstein International Center, the NGO Report the Abuse, and the Humanitarian Women’s network have all highlighted staggering statistics on the extent of such abuse, the risk factors and ongoing research. Shocked by such findings, IASC
Principals have already pledged to strengthen the overall institutional response on the issue, to safeguard staff, address impunity, and strengthen policies, structure and accountability mechanisms.

As newly-appointed IASC Co-Champion on this issue with Ms. Lindsay Coates of InterAction, Ms. Kate Gilmore (OHCHR) acknowledged the pioneering and courageous work of the organizations which have already revealed that threats against humanitarian workers in the field include actions of abuse, violence and humiliation perpetuated by their own colleagues. She emphasized that the sector must not tolerate mismanagement, victim blaming, skepticism, silencing or cover-ups. She deplored the “toxic tolerance” on the issue, making clear that leaders were specifically accountable for upholding the very essence of humanitarian values, as well as ensuring that survivors know where, and how, to report and seek justice. Ms. Gilmore underlined that acts of sexual harassment and abuse were perpetrated where power was most stratified and accountability weak. She stressed that, after decades of advocacy and normative reforms, it was time to ensure that each employer ensure due diligence measures and fulfill their duty of care for all staff against sexual harassment and abuse. She expressed gratitude for the IASC’s intensified efforts to bring the issue forward. In concluding, she called for an essential cultural shift, and collective action and commitment, improving governance, policies, reporting mechanisms and accountability frameworks.

Ms. Megan Nobert (Report the Abuse) shared her own story and the graphic testimonies of others who have been affected. A change of culture was necessary and she invited all relevant stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Feinstein Center’s study. Clear and understandable policies were needed to create trust, to hold perpetrators to account, and emphasized the importance of training at all levels on this issues and enhanced knowledge about rights and obligations.

Mr. Niels Scott (RC Georgia) gave an overview of specific challenges that field leaders themselves face in their role to enhance the implementation of holistic responses to instances of sexual harassment and abuse of aid workers by aid workers. The fear of ‘getting it wrong’ sometimes constrains action, while organizations' leadership are sometimes challenged in balancing concerns on victims' safety, contractual issues or reputational risks. He called for the necessary determination and coordination to ensure safe avenues for victims to claim their rights, with strong support mechanisms and sanctions to end impunity for perpetrators. Mr. Scott also referred to several policies and measures that had been adopted during the last decades, and some positive initiatives that have been implemented at field level. He noted good examples, such as the creation of a network on the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, funded through pooled funds in Liberia, and the establishment of a joint complaint and resources mechanism in Haiti. Existing policies alone were not enough; more efforts were needed to implement agreed measures, and resources must be prioritized for this.

During the ensuing discussion, representatives of Member States, United Nations agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders welcomed the opportunity through such an event to raise the visibility, and reinforce commitment, on this critical issue. They referenced a
number of existing positive practices in terms of policies, mechanisms and provision of psychological and legal aid to victims. At the same time, they raised concerns on the availability of adequate resources and the will to implement policies and procedures at global and field levels. They stressed the need to ensure that staff of all genders are actively engaged in the global efforts to tackle the issue. Guidance and good practice is increasingly available, with Ms. Nobert noting forthcoming publication in August 2017 of such a compilation, while there is on-going work to develop guidelines also for the UN security management system. Mr. Scott emphasized the responsibility of Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators to adequately raise awareness about the issue at field level, and to promote transparency and accountability. Ms. Gilmore underlined that vulnerability was a social construction and expressed concern that, too often, organization and donor scrutiny is focused on budget implementation, rather than appropriate human resources support and management.

In their concluding remarks, the panelists stressed the urgent need to push forward the agenda on sexual harassment and abuse of aid workers by aid workers, ensuring concrete actions and policy guidance. Ms. Gilmore emphasized that better remedies and accountability were crucial, as was senior management engagement. Above all, all relevant stakeholders must stand up, speak up and ensure solidarity with survivors.