SRMUN Atlanta 2015
Unifying Our Global Community through
Humanitarian Collaboration
November 19-21, 2015
Atlanta, Georgia
whs_atlanta@srmun.org

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the SRMUN Atlanta 2015 Conference and the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). My name is Isabelle Lara and it gives me great pleasure to serve as your Director. Together with my Assistant Directors Kayla Bello and Sherdil Seghal, I am here to ensure that your experience during this summit will be exceptional and we are pleased to serve as your Dias.

The World Humanitarian Summit is a direct initiative of the honorable Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. Its goal is to unite the international community in the hopes of finding new and improved ways of working together, bearing in mind the importance of bringing an end to the harm caused by current humanitarian crises around the globe.

The Assistant Directors and I have provided a Background Guide and Logistical Document to clarify the expectations and format of debate in this unique committee. Rather than simulating a traditional committee, the WHS will be simulated as a Summit. Delegations are pre-assigned to one of four different "working groups", each with its own distinct thematic area. Delegates are strongly encouraged to conduct in-depth research on their assigned theme and the positions that accurately reflect their Member States' current policy and position. When conducting research, delegates should keep in mind the Conference's theme: "Unifying Our Global Community Through Humanitarian Collaboration." The four themes facing the WHS 2016 are:

      I.   Humanitarian Effectiveness
     II.   Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk
   III.   Transformation through Innovation
   IV.   Serving the Needs of People in Conflict

Position papers are required and must only be written on the theme for the working group they are assigned in. Working Group assignments can be found here. Position papers for the WHS are not to be longer than two pages as per standard SRMUN policy. Delegates are advised to carefully read and follow the guidelines for position papers outlined on the SRMUN website along with those detailed in the WHS Logistics Document, as these guidelines are mandatory. Position papers should clearly address your Member States positions, provide any relevant history and discuss plans for action specific to your assigned "working groups" theme. Additionally, addressing both regional and international perspectives on your assigned theme is important, as the topics of discussion concern multiple Member States. Even though the position paper is only for the assigned theme, delegates are to be reminded they should research and be prepared to discuss all themes for when the committee goes into Summit debate as explained in the WHS logistics document.

Delegates should also strive to stay up-to-date with current events leading to the Conference, as this will help the flow of debate. Position papers MUST be submitted by **30 October 2015 by 11:59pm EST** via the online submission system at http://www.srmun.org.

Kayla, Sherdil and I are looking forward to meeting you and serving as your Dias for this conference. We are confident that each of you will do an outstanding job preparing for the WHS and will contribute greatly to the flow of this committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Isabelle Lara   Kayla Bello   Sherdil Seghal   Joel Fitzgerald
Director   Assistant Director   Assistant Director   Director General
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World Humanitarian Summit Committee Logistics

I. Adoption of the Agenda

The World Humanitarian Summit 2016 acts separately and independently of other committees at SRMUN with a preset agenda, as all four "themes" will be discussed simultaneously. Each Member State is pre-assigned to a "working group", which is assigned one of the four themes.

Each thematic working group is assigned a corresponding color. All Delegations will have a badge and placard in the color matching their respective working group, as shown below:

> **Working Group A**
> Theme 1: **Humanitarian Effectiveness**
> COLOR: **Orange**
>
> **Working Group B**
> Theme 2: **Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk**
> COLOR: **Green**
>
> **Working Group C**
> Theme 3: **Transformation through Innovation**
> COLOR: **Blue**
>
> **Working Group D**
> Theme 4: **Serving the Needs of People in Conflict**
> COLOR: **Purple**

II. Position Papers

Due to the special nature of the WHS, position paper requirements will differ somewhat from other SRMUN committees. Instead of writing a position paper for all four themes, delegates will only be required to submit a position paper for their assigned theme. Delegates will adhere to SRMUN writing and formatting policy when writing their position paper, and will be subject to the same evaluation guidelines as other committees.

III. Outside Parties

The actual World Humanitarian Summit is taking place in Istanbul, Turkey on 22-24 May 2016 and is not an intergovernmental process and instead intended to mirror the realities of humanitarian action. Multiple humanitarian actors are involved, including Member States and non-State actors, such as community organizations, bilateral government organizations and regional partners, the private sector, and multilateral humanitarian organizations. The summit will bring together these actors, many who were actively involved in the regional and global consultations, in order to gather their perspectives,

Outside Parties at SRMUN WHS 2016

The resources of SRMUN are limited, so logistically, it is not possible to include non-State actors within our simulation of the WHS. Delegates are strongly encouraged to bring research and reports published by many of these non-State actors that have been involved in the consultation process with them to conference. During committee, delegates should consider the concerns and opinions of other humanitarian actors that may have been voiced during the regional consultations; therefore including their perspectives within the SRMUN simulation of the WHS.

IV. Flow of Debate

After the Director and dais introduces themselves, the committee will move into formal session, thus beginning the 1st Breakout Session. The speakers' list will be opened and the chair will add speakers to the list, after which, the chair will ask if there are any points or motions on the floor.

There are a total of 6 committee sessions and each session will have goals set by the dais, intended to ensure that time is managed efficiently. The first 3 sessions will be referred to as "**_Breakout Sessions_**", the 4th session will be a "**_Flexible Session_**", and the last 2 sessions will be "**_Summit Sessions_**".

Breakout Sessions will primarily consist of informal debate, during which delegates will produce and complete a majority of the writing process. The Flexible Session is intended for delegates to transition from Breakout Sessions into Summit Sessions, with delegates finalizing their draft report segments and beginning conversations for the Summit Sessions. The final two Summit Sessions will consist of a normal mix of formal and informal debate where delegates from the four working groups can collectively discuss the work accomplished during the previous sessions. Voting is expected to take place during the final sessions of the conference.

Formal Debate

Although delegates have been divided into working groups, there will be no pre-assigned seating and delegates are not required to sit within their working groups. Formal sessions within WHS 2016 will run similarly to other SRMUN committees. Delegates will speak in the order of the speakers list, discussing the work they are accomplishing and how their working group is progressing. Standard SRMUN Rules of Procedure will apply during formal debate.

Informal Debate

Informal debate at SRMUN occurs in the form of moderated and unmoderated caucuses. Moderated caucuses in WHS will not run any differently than those held in other committees at SRMUN. Unmoderated caucuses in WHS will be used either to divide into working groups or to openly discuss any work accomplished by the four working groups.

Delegates should not significantly contribute to working papers outside of their assigned themes during unmoderated caucuses while in Breakout Sessions. Later committee sessions (Flexible and Summit), will give delegates the opportunity to contribute to and debate themes outside of their assigned themes.

While delegates are expected to have a general background understanding of the other themes so that they can contribute to debate for more than just the assigned theme, delegates should primarily focus on their theme, as they will be completing the majority of the substantive work of the committee within their assigned working groups.

V. Report Writing at SRMUN

Delegates in WHS will produce draft report segments during the course of negotiations, instead of draft resolutions. These reports represent the full work and final recommendations of the Summit in the same manner as resolutions, but in the form of one document. Report writing is similar in nature to resolutions, with a few key differences. In resolution writing committees, delegates typically produce a number of draft resolutions for each topic, and each one is then subjected to a substantive vote by the body, where it either passes or fails. Similarly, report-writing committees produce several draft report segments and vote on each segment separately. The draft report segments that are passed by the body are then combined into one comprehensive report at the end of the simulation.

Some things to keep in mind:
- Absolutely no prewritten reports or segments.
- Merge working documents with others that are on the same issue or aspect.
- **The final document is from the entire body**, not an individual or groups of delegates.

What makes a report-writing committee unique?
- Reports are much more text heavy than resolutions.
- Reports use complete sentences rather than a single sentence in a resolution and are made up of a series of paragraphs.
- Reports do not use operative or preambulatory clauses.
- The final report will combine all report segments approved by the body – collaboration is the key to the body's success.

Building a Report in Committee

Each section and corresponding sub-headers should have enumerated clauses that outline the substance of the report. Each sub-header (A, B, C, etc.) in the introduction segment should be repeated in the conclusions and recommendations segment. Usually, one sub-header corresponds to one draft report segment.

Multiple draft report segments can be adopted on the same topic **ONLY** if they address different aspects of the agenda (this is why merging is so essential). Since WHS 2016 has a pre-set agenda with four themes, this means that only four draft report segments will be accepted by the dais: one from each thematic working group.

Using WHS 2016 as an example, the final report is expected to be the combination of four report segments: one for each theme. Sub-header A would correspond to the first segment, B to the second segment, and so forth. In most report writing committees, the first draft report segment that is accepted and introduced by the dais typically becomes sub-header A. In WHS 2016, the sub-headers will correspond with the order of the themes in the background guide. Therefore, sub-header A will correspond to theme 1 (Humanitarian Effectiveness), sub-header B will correspond to theme 2, and so forth.

Parts of a Report

The three main sections of a report include: the introduction section; the mandate section; and the conclusions and recommendations section. These sections are explained in detail below, and will be presented in the format/structure of a report so that delegates can obtain a visual understanding of the layout of a report.

I. Introduction:

A. General Instructions

1. This section introduces the problem and provides some background information and history of the topic at hand. Delegates will utilize their research, incorporating it into the introduction section. The clauses should progress from broad concepts to more specific concepts and should be presented in historical or chronological order.

2. The introduction should set the stage for actions proposed in the conclusions and recommendations section. All points raised in the introduction need to have a purpose. In other words, if a point is included in the introduction segment, it should lead to an action in the corresponding conclusions and recommendations segment.

B. Additional Instructions

3. In the WHS 2016 introduction section, there will be four sub-headings (one per theme), and within each sub-heading there will be multiple paragraphs providing background information and explaining the issues that should later be addressed in the conclusions and recommendations section.

4. Notice how even though the above clause is under a new sub-heading (B), the number in front of the clause continues to progress accordingly, and will do so throughout the entire report, without starting over at "1" from when changing sections or sub-sections. **No amendments or modifications can be made to this section.**

II. Mandate:

5. The mandate addresses the committee or summit history and powers, and is ALWAYS provided by the dais. The mandate will be included within the SRMUN WHS Report Template and will be provided by conference services. The mandate is NOT to be altered, deleted, or edited in any way by delegates.

III. Conclusions and Recommendations:

A. General Instructions

6. This is the final segment of a report where delegates explain actions that should be taken in order to address issues discussed in the introduction section.

7. This section should be exceptionally detailed and straight-forward: these paragraphs are similar to what you would find in the operatives section of a resolution, and as such, similar operative words are typically used; however reports are written in complete sentences.
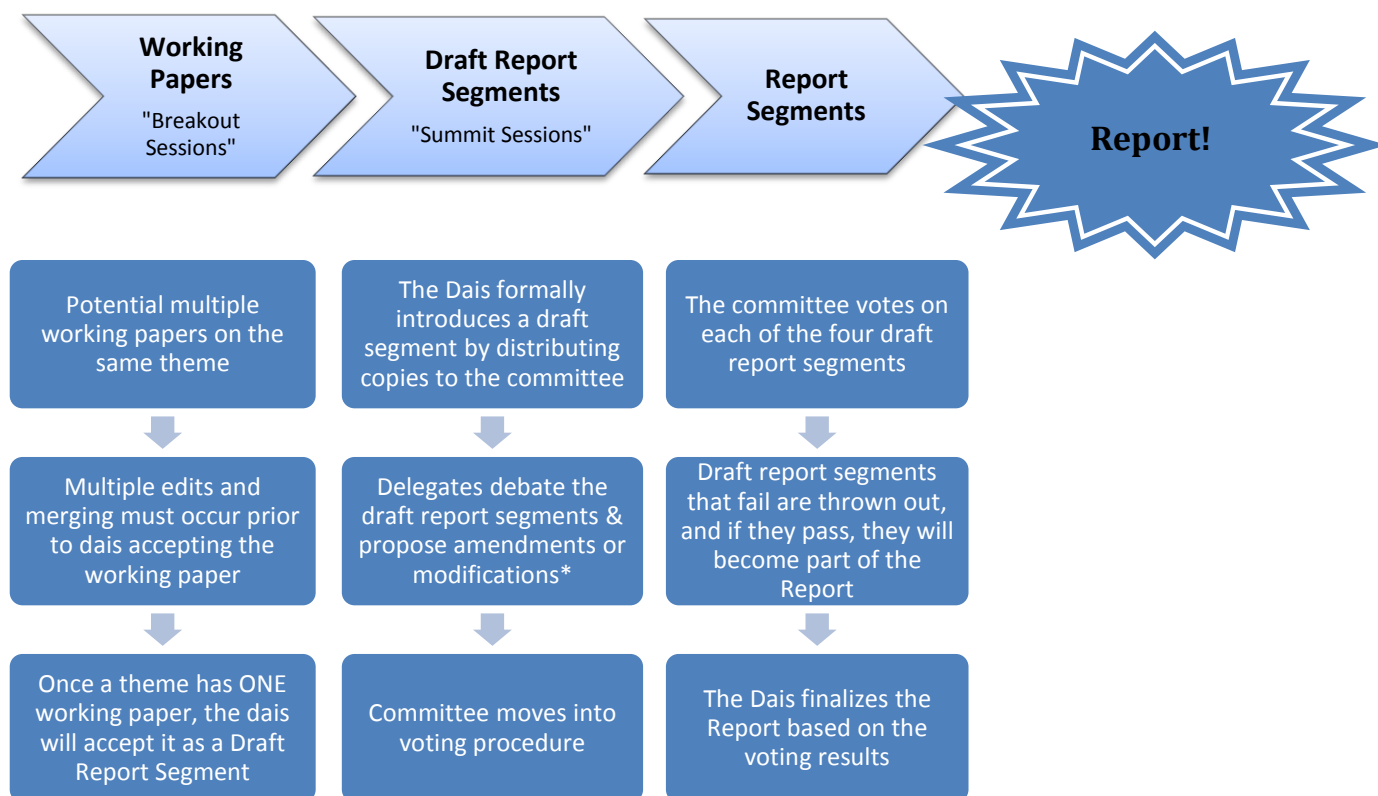
B. Additional Instructions

8. Since there is a section "B" in the introduction segment, there needs to be a corresponding section "B" in the conclusions and recommendations section.

Report Writing in the WHS 2016

Unlike other report-writing committees, the WHS will only create four draft report segments, one per thematic working group. Delegates will work on the introduction of their draft segment separately from the conclusions & recommendations during the first "Breakout Session" and submit these to the dais for editing and feedback before proceeding with the other draft segments. This will allow delegates to gain experience with report writing in general, and will give the delegates a chance to get a grasp of the underlying research and background materials needed to move forward with the writing process.

Multiple draft report segments per working group will not be allowed and the dais only will accept one draft report segment per theme. Delegates will only be able to compose and edit the working paper of the working group they are assigned to. Once the dais has accepted a working paper as a draft report segment, any delegation can propose amendments as long as they have the appropriate number of signatories/sponsors. A visual representation of the report writing process is provided below.

Working Papers "Breakout Sessions"	→	Draft Report Segments "Summit Sessions"	→	Report Segments	→	Report!

Potential multiple working papers on the same theme	The Dais formally introduces a draft segment by distributing copies to the committee	The committee votes on each of the four draft report segments
↓	↓	↓
Multiple edits and merging must occur prior to dais accepting the working paper	Delegates debate the draft report segments & propose amendments or modifications*	Draft report segments that fail are thrown out, and if they pass, they will become part of the Report
↓	↓	↓
Once a theme has ONE working paper, the dais will accept it as a Draft Report Segment	Committee moves into voting procedure	The Dais finalizes the Report based on the voting results

*Amendments and modification can ONLY be made to the **Conclusions/Recommendations** section.

SRMUN Atlanta 2015
World Humanitarian Summit
Group Assignments
As of: August 27th, 2015

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Theme 1: Humanitarian Effectiveness	Theme 2: Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk	Theme 3: Transformation through Innovation	Theme 4: Serving the Needs of People in Conflict
COLOR: Orange	COLOR: Green	COLOR: Blue	COLOR: Purple
Angola	Bahamas	Australia	Afghanistan
Algeria	Brazil	Bangladesh	Albania
Barbados	Burkina Faso	Congo	Argentina
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Chad	Cuba	Bahrain
Colombia	Czech Republic	Ethiopia	Canada
Croatia	DPRK	Haiti	Chile
Djibouti	Dominican Republic	Iran	China
Germany	Egypt	Jordan	Dem. Rep. of the Congo
India	Iraq	Lebanon	Ecuador
Jamaica	Israel	Lesotho	France
Japan	Liberia	Mauritania	Ghana
Kuwait	Malaysia	Netherlands	Indonesia
Libya	Mali	Nigeria	Italy
Lithuania	Nepal	Poland	Kenya
Madagascar	Nicaragua	Portugal	Morocco
Mexico	Panama	Republic of Korea	Mozambique
Pakistan	Qatar	Rwanda	New Zealand
Palestine	Russian Federation	Slovenia	Oman
Somalia	Senegal	Sudan	Romania
Switzerland	South Sudan	Thailand	Saudi Arabia
Uganda	Spain	Trinidad & Tobago	Serbia
Ukraine	Turkey	United Kingdom	South Africa
United States	United Arab Emirates	Venezuela	Syria
Viet nam	United Rep. of Tanzania	Zimbabwe	Tunisia
Yemen	Uruguay		

Introduction to the World Humanitarian Summit 2016

Nearly 25 years ago, delegates from various Member States engaged in a discussion on humanitarian action, resulting in General Assembly resolution 46/182, which established the present humanitarian system.[1] Due to the constant change in variables, challenges currently facing the humanitarian system are vastly different from those faced in 1991. These changes include a shift in global economics, the advent of new technology, changes in national and regional demographics, climate change, rapid population growth, recurrent or new diseases, and internal and external conflict.

Secretary-General (SG) Ban Ki-moon took the initiative to bring together the global community in order to commit to bold new changes in humanitarian action.[2] His call for action resulted in creation of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), which is the first UN conference of its kind. The Summit will place key emphasis on exploring or developing innovative ways of working together to save human lives and reduce the adversities faced by communities around the globe. The SG expressed his confidence in the future and proclaimed the World Humanitarian Summit a key element in the UNs global agenda for change and action in order to better serve the most vulnerable members of the international community.[3]

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been tasked to organize and oversee the summit.[4] The Summit will take place in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-24 May 2016.[5] A WHS Secretariat has been set up in New York, led by the celebrated humanitarian activist Dr. Jemilah Mahmood.[6] In preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit, extensive consultations have been held to gather the perspectives, priorities, and recommendations of all Member States and non-State actors on what must be done to ensure adequate and viable humanitarian action for the future.

A global consultation (Switzerland), a thematic consultation (Germany), and eight regional consultations (Côte d'Ivoire, Japan, South Africa, Hungary, Jordan, Guatemala, New Zealand, Tajikistan) have been held to gather views from around the world about how to jointly address future humanitarian needs.[7] Additionally, several international conferences will directly or indirectly contribute to the WHS, including the post-2015 Development agenda (MDG), the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.[8]

Four major themes will serve as broad categories to guide discussion and the ensuing recommendations: **1) Humanitarian effectiveness** will focus on developing common understanding among stakeholders of key concepts, such as accountability and transparency; **2) Managing risk and reducing vulnerability** will create a new "business model" to anticipate risks and make greater use of joint planning; **3) Transformation through innovation** will identify and integrate innovative products and processes to address operational challenges; and **4) Serving the needs of people in conflict** will help strengthen the capacity of the system to respond to the needs of people affected by conflict and other forms of violence.[9]

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[1] "World Humanitarian Summit 2016 Concept Note," United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, September 2013, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org (accessed March 25, 2015).

[2] "About the World Humanitarian Summit," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about (accessed March 25, 2015).

[3] "Secretary-General, Briefing on Plans for First-Ever World Humanitarian Summit, Urges Renewed Commitments to Reduce Suffering," United Nations, April 20, 2015, http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sgsm16682.doc.htm (accessed May 12, 2015).

[4] "About the World Humanitarian Summit," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about (accessed March 25, 2015).

[5] "UN General Assembly: Turkey Announced as Host of 2016 World Humanitarian Summit," United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), September 26, 2013, http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/un-general-assembly-turkey-announced-host-2016-world-humanitarian-summit (accessed March 25, 2015).

[6] Michelle Tam, "In the Eye of the Storm," The Star Online, December 22, 2014, http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2014/12/22/In-the-eye-of-the-storm/ (accessed June 5, 2015).

[7] "World Humanitarian Summit Online Consultations," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/sitemap (accessed June 5, 2015).

[8] "Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection," European Commission, 2014, http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/whs_en.pdf (accessed July 15, 2015).

[9] "About the World Humanitarian Summit," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about (accessed March 25, 2015).

The overall goal is to ensure that the results of the various WHS consultations translate into clear, actionable recommendations.[10] The World Humanitarian Summit will bring together the humanitarian community with leaders from the development, peace-building and peacekeeping spheres to work towards establishing an all-inclusive and clear approach in the way humanitarian assistance and aid is delivered. Heads of State, representatives of civil society, the private sector, crisis-affected communities, and multilateral organizations will attend the Summit.[11] This unique forum is an opportunity for the unique vulnerabilities and strengths of Member States to be discussed and reflected in the global discussions.[12]

According to the Secretary- General, "The World Humanitarian Summit and the consultations leading up to it, aim to build a more inclusive and truly global humanitarian system."[13] The outcomes from the consultations will be presented to Summit participants in a report from the Secretary-General summarizing findings and recommendations with a suggested 'road map'/ Plan of Action for post-2016.[14]

All Member States are represented in the World Humanitarian Summit 2016.

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[10] Ibid.

[11] "Sustainable Development Policy & Practice: World Humanitarian Summit," International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), http://sd.iisd.org/events/world-humanitarian-summit/ (accessed May 12, 2015).

[12] "Pacific Region," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_pacific (accessed May 12, 2015).

[13] "Secretary-General's remarks to Member States briefing on the World Humanitarian Summit" The United Nations. http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8555 (accessed May 12, 2015).

[14] "World Humanitarian Summit 2016 Concept Note," OCHA, September 2013, https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/WHS%20Concept%20Note.pdf (accessed March 25, 2015).

Theme I: Humanitarian Effectiveness

Introduction

Since its inception, the United Nations has aimed to promote effective humanitarian efforts among the international community. The scope and sophistication of international humanitarian aid is unprecedented, and entering an unparalleled era of humanitarian aid. Technological advances are allowing for increased and more effective distribution of humanitarian assistance, while open dialogues between international humanitarian actors allow for improved coordination among state and non-state actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations.[15] However, the social, political and economical changes that are occurring as we move further into the 21st Century reaffirms that as the international landscape changes, so do the needs of those being served.

Currently, opposing interpretations of international humanitarian law (IHL) is a major hindrance for effective humanitarian aid implementation and management.[16] Many international actors reference UN General Assembly Resolution, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, as the founding resolution of the framework for the provision of UN humanitarian assistance.[17] The resolution's key features include "humanitarian assistance being of cardinal importance for the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies" and "be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality."[18] Additionally, "the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Member States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."[19] The UN Secretary-General's 2013 report on "Strengthening Humanitarian Coordination" defined the international humanitarian system as "the network of international humanitarian actors who are functionally connected through the framework for coordination", established by the General Assembly resolution 46/182 and its subsequent resolutions.[20] These resolutions include actions such as the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and planning and financing mechanisms, all of which are steered by a commitment to the guiding principles, humanitarian values and international law.[21]

While such initiatives have been taken toward improving the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts, the number of people affected by crises has more than doubled in the last decade.[22] Currently, the international community is experiencing a growing number of crises due to factors such as changing geo-political and economic relationships, urbanization and the rise of the youth population and social discontent, climate change, environmental degradation and fragility, and the threat of old (and new) pandemic diseases.[23] In response to these issues, this theme will focus on the overall organizational effectiveness and performance of the humanitarian sector by striving for more cooperation among stakeholders in humanitarian action, focusing on the context of a crisis and achieving greater accountability among those involved in humanitarian relief.[24]

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[15] A/68/x-E/2013/y/. *Advanced Unedited Draft: Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council. July 2013. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/sg_report-adv_strengthening_coordination_of_humanitarian_assistance.pdf.

[16] Atta Al-Mannan Bakhit, "Humanitarian Challenges: Perspectives from the South and Islamic Countries," Annual WFP Partnership Consultation, October 2014, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/467854/download/509865 (accessed May 24, 2015).

[17] Ibid.

[18] A/RES/46/182. *Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly. December 19, 1991. http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm (accessed May 24, 2015).

[19] Ibid.

[20] Ibid.

[21] A/RES/46/182. *Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly. December 19, 1991. http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm (accessed May 24, 2015).

[22] "Initial Scoping Paper – WHS Theme 1: Humanitarian Effectiveness," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/e1e025da702cc19576cde7eb925ab11ad611d890?vid=489272&disposition=inline&op=view (accessed May 28, 2015).

[23] Atta Al-Mannan Bakhit, "Humanitarian Challenges: Perspectives from the South and Islamic Countries," Annual WFP Partnership Consultation, October 2014, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/467854/download/509865 (accessed May 24, 2015).

[24] "Initial Scoping Paper – WHS Theme 1: Humanitarian Effectiveness," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/e1e025da702cc19576cde7eb925ab11ad611d890?vid=489272&disposition=inline&op=view (accessed May 28, 2015).

Cooperation among Stakeholders in Humanitarian Action

Humanitarian challenges cannot be resolved by a single Member State or single entity; no matter how strong or capable, meaning more cooperation and communication between humanitarian actors and Member States at the local, national and international level must be at the forefront of discussion. According to GA Resolution 46/182, "Member States have the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory."[25] Hence, "the affected Member State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory."[26] The primary role of Member States in disaster response is recognized by all major policies that guide humanitarian assistance (UNGA Res 46/182, the NGO/Red Cross Code of Conduct, the EU Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the IDRL Guidelines), yet a "state-avoiding" attitude exists among many international humanitarian actors as it is assumed that developing Member States capacity to respond effectively is inadequate.[27]

Until recently, emergency preparedness by international humanitarian actors primarily focused on strengthening inter-agency preparation, with relatively little attention paid to national actors. For example, the 2001 Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance, which aims to assist Humanitarian Country Teams in preparing to respond to potential emergencies with humanitarian assistance, made no reference to the role of governments until the 2007 revision.[28] Yet still, the engagement of governments and national actors remains infrequent and limited.[29] It is the responsibility of the international community to determine how local, national and regional response efforts can be better supported and developed. Member States have increasingly expressed the desire to have more input and control over humanitarian activities taking place within their border, even going as far as instituting civil society laws and restrictions.[30] This is done primarily to bring order to what appears to be a chaotic, uncoordinated and unregulated rise of NGOs and unless resolved, these restrictions can lead to the reduction of humanitarian work, limiting access to those in need.[31] Therefore, the international community should determine how all major actors involved in humanitarian action can better 'inter-operate' with one another, while respecting national sovereignty and international law.

The Context of a Crisis

Crises are a primary element the humanitarian sector and the humanitarian community should adjust accordingly to different situations in order to ensure more effective responses. For example, sudden disasters where regional, national and local response capacity is strong versus a conflict where the government is a contributor should not be addressed in a similar manner.[32] Additionally, multiple existing variables can greatly affect the context of a crisis.[33] These can include variables such as the type of crisis; sudden onset disaster, slow-onset disaster, a conflict or complex emergency, a chronic vulnerability situation or a combination of these, the capacity and environment established by the host government or parties to a conflict.[34] There is increasing evidence that new factors such as "the changing dynamics in geo-political relationships, the increasing discontentment of the youth population in developing Member States, climate change and the escalating threat of epidemic diseases should be addressed when evaluating the causes of humanitarian crises."[35]

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[25] A/RES/46/182. *Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly. December 19, 1991. http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm (accessed May 24, 2015).

[26] Ibid.

[27] Charles-Antoine Hofmann and Gary Domingo, "The Primary Role of Governments in Humanitarian Action: Rhetoric or Reality?," World Humanitarian Summit, February 2015, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/484660/download/528151 (accessed June 3, 2015).

[28] "Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance," Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), November 2007, https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/inter-agencycontingencyplanningguidelinesforhumanitarianassistance.pdf (accessed June 3, 2015).

[29] Ibid.

[30] Atta Al-Mannan Bakhit, "Humanitarian Challenges: Perspectives from the South and Islamic Countries," Annual WFP Partnership Consultation, October 2014, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/467854/download/509865 (accessed May 24, 2015).

[31] Ibid.

[32] "Initial Scoping Paper – WHS Theme 1: Humanitarian Effectiveness," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/e1e025da702cc19576cde7eb925ab11ad611d890?vid=489272&disposition=inline&op=view (accessed May 28, 2015).

[33] Ibid.

[34] Ibid.

[35] Ibid.

Recently, discussion on the varying contexts of crisis situations has been included in the aid effectiveness agenda in the development sector.[36] Analyzing the effectiveness of the development aid process is relevant to the humanitarian effectiveness discussion by determining what lessons can be learned.[37] There is a clear correlation between emergency, rehabilitation and development and in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation into development, emergency assistance should be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development.[38] Emergency measures should thus be seen as a step towards long-term development.[39]

Accountability as a Priority

One of the main issues facing the humanitarian sector today is that there are few consequences for humanitarian actors when they fail to meet the expectations of others, and ultimately, no 'real' accountability between aid agencies and many of their stakeholders.[40] According to a 2010 Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) publication, "for organizations that assist or act on behalf of people affected by or prone to disasters, conflict, poverty or other crises, accountability is especially important."[41] Organizations utilize and operate with a significant amount power during their humanitarian efforts while those affected by crisis often have little influence, input or formal control of the decision making process.[42] This process makes it difficult for crisis affected individuals to hold organizations accountable for actions and decisions made on their behalf.[43]

When evaluating the humanitarian effectiveness of an organization, it is important to differentiate between whether or not it has achieved "good" humanitarian work versus its accountability.[44] This is because there is a conceptual difference between accountability and quality/effectiveness and recognizing these as distinct goals helps to improve and defend a relationship between the two.[45] Failure to do so could result in broad approaches to accountability, or participation that avoids addressing the most fundamental aspects of these practices, the redistribution of power.[46] Unified and coordinated humanitarian responses that put national and local governments at the center of decision-making are imperative. The international community should endeavor to achieve a resilient, effective and complementary humanitarian system whose ultimate goal is to ease human suffering. This Summit should seek to establish a more accountable humanitarian system where a bottom-up approach is applied, resilient communities define their own needs and local actors (including people at risk themselves) lead the response.

Conclusion

While there is no established definition of what constitutes "humanitarian effectiveness", there is strong consensus that the fundamental goal of humanitarian action is to alleviate human suffering and is often discussed in terms of transparency, readiness, monetary value, and accountability to affected Member States, people and donors.[47] [48] Therefore, in order to deal with the challenges facing the humanitarian sector, and with

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[36] A/RES/46/182. *Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly. December 19, 1991. http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm (accessed May 24, 2015).

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Ibid.

[40] Alice Obrecht, et al, "WHS Effectiveness Theme Focal Issue Paper 5: Accountability," World Humanitarian Summit, March 27, 2015, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/486038/download/529636 (accessed June 3, 2015).

[41] "The 2010 HAP Standard in Accountability and Quality Management," HAP International, 2010, http://www.hapinternational.org/pool/files/2010-hap-standard-in-accountability.pdf (accessed August 9, 2015).

[42] Ibid.

[43] Ibid.

[44] Ibid.

[45] Ibid.

[46] Alice Obrecht, et al, "WHS Effectiveness Theme Focal Issue Paper 5: Accountability," World Humanitarian Summit, March 27, 2015, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/486038/download/529636 (accessed June 3, 2015).

[47] A/68/x-E/2013/y/. *Advanced Unedited Draft: Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council. July 2013. http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/adv2013/sg_report-adv_strengthening_coordination_of_humanitarian_assistance.pdf

[48] Ibid.

a strong overall emphasis on putting people at the center through greater accountability, the WHS needs to deliver: a shift in power towards locally-led response, greater integration and investment in resilience, reducing vulnerability and enhanced access to humanitarian assistance and protection in fragile Member States and protracted crises. Clarification of the role international law plays in sovereignty affective aid distribution is an important aspect of this conversation. By focusing on enhanced cooperation among stakeholders and the specific requirements of crisis situations, the international community can ensure accountability among humanitarian actors and effective distribution of humanitarian aid

Committee Directives

Member States should address how the humanitarian & development sectors can work together more consistently to ensure that humanitarian & development programs reinforce one another. What types of platforms for cooperation are needed and what are the common standards necessary among different humanitarian groups for them to work more effectively? Do these platforms already exists and if so, how can they be better utilized? Should there be a shift to a more regional-based approach from a global one? Delegates should determine what the role of regional organizations in humanitarian preparedness and response should be and how the role of regional organizations can be strengthened. How can humanitarian actors empower and strengthen the coordination of national and local governments?

According to the context of a crisis, which actors are best equipped to respond and who should lead or coordinate the response (global versus regional response)? Delegates should have a clear understanding of the various types of contexts in which crises can occur, the types of humanitarian aid needed according to each context and the different roles humanitarian actors play within each context. Learning from past experiences, delegates should establish clear criteria for applying participatory or accountability mechanisms based on evidence of how various approaches work in different contexts.

Many guidelines, standards, and codes of conduct exist for actors in the international humanitarian system; should these guidelines better take into account the specific context of emergencies including the type of emergency and the capacity or enabling environment of the host government?[49] Delegates identify different levels of responsibility for various humanitarian actors and the different accountability relationships these might require. Delegates should consider new or existing standards by which humanitarian actors will be held accountable to in order to respond effectively to a crisis.

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[49] "Initial Scoping Paper – WHS Theme 1: Humanitarian Effectiveness," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/e1e025da702cc19576cde7eb925ab11ad611d890?vid=489272 &disposition=inline&op=view (accessed May 28, 2015).

Theme II: Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk

Introduction

Between 1980 and 2011, the international community faced over 3,455 floods, 2,689 storms, and 460 droughts, according to The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).[50] Furthermore, reports indicate that an estimated 1.2 million people have been killed due to disaster from 2000 to 2012 alone while research indicates that the cost of disaster-related damage continues to rise.[51] The 2015 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR15), completed by the UNISDR, states that "economic losses from disasters are now reaching an average of USD$250 to $300 billion annually."[52] Investing in strategies aimed at managing risk and reducing vulnerability is shown to be more economically efficient than focusing solely on humanitarian response. [53] This was illustrated in a recent study showing that, over a 20 year period in Kenya, every one dollar spent on disaster resilience resulted in USD $2.9 saved in the form of reduced humanitarian expenses.[54]

A crucial goal of the WHS 2016 Summit is placing increased focus and attention on the need to assist developing Member States in their ability to understand and manage risks while reducing their vulnerability to shocks and stresses. Utilizing research and information obtained during the consultation process, the 2016 Summit will ideally result in a set of recommendations for how all stakeholders can work together to more effectively support local communities, Member States, and regions better withstand, adapt to, and recover from the various shocks or stresses that occur. These stresses and shocks can result from one or many different factors, to name a few: environmental degradation, rapid urbanization trends, rapid population growth, food and energy price spikes, and the effects of climate change.[55] Disaster is "a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resource", according to the UNISDR definition.[56]

Strengthening Humanitarian and Development Partnerships

Through several General Assembly Resolutions, the UN and Member States have worked to improve managing risks and reducing vulnerability. In February of 2009, General Assembly A/RES.63/217 established the UNISDR, a body mandated to oversee the creation and development of plans and strategies for disaster risk reduction.[57] The UNIDSR established a one of the first-of-its-kind framework, the "Hyogo Framework", which outlined priorities to assist Member States, regional organizations and international organizations to create plans of action.[58] In 14-18 March 2015, the UNIDSR held its' most recent conference focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Sendai, Japan, resulting in the creation of the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030."[59] This framework allowed for an updated, more focused action plan for reducing disaster risk and building resilience, with the consideration of progress from the previous Hyogo Framework, as well as efforts and strategies already put in motion by the international community. The Sendai Framework

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[50] "Disaster Statistics," The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/disaster-statistics (accessed May 4, 2015).

[51] Ibid.

[52] "UN Secretary-General: World Threatened By Dangerous and Unacceptable Levels of Risk From Disasters," UNISDR, March 4, 2015, http://www.unisdr.org/archive/42814 (accessed April 25, 2015).

[53] Cabot Venton, et al, "The Economics of Early Response and Disaster Resilience: Lessons from Kenya and Ethiopia," Department for International Development (DFID), June 2012, http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/Econ-Ear-Rec-Res-Full-Report%20.pdf (accessed May 7, 2015).

[54] Ibid.

[55] "Scoping Paper - Theme 2: Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/449456/download/489267 (accessed May 15, 2015).

[56] "Terminology," UNISDR, http://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/terminology (accessed May 1, 2015).

[57] A/RES/63/217. *Natural Disasters and Vulnerability*. United Nations General Assembly. February 18, 2009.

[58] *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). http://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf (accessed June 15, 2015).

[59] "Some 500,000 Homes and Temples Across Nepal Damaged by Earthquake, UN Official Says," UN News Centre, May 26, 2015, http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50969#.VdfKu5eGPh5 (accessed May 7, 2015).

outlines several key priorities for action, with a mean priority of better understanding of disaster risk by means of improving on the collection and analysis of data and expanding access to this data.[60]

A key priority is strengthening disaster risk governance by promoting reduction strategies and the tools/mechanisms already determined to be successful by assessing current risk management capacities and continuing to revise and improved upon national and regional DRR strategies.[61] Additional key priorities include increasing investment in risk reduction mechanisms and focusing on the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of affected areas.[62] The divide between humanitarian and development agendas has created a fractioned approach to risk management while humanitarian needs rise in conjunction with the escalating occurrence and severity of natural hazards.[63] This trend, along with rapid urbanization, population growth, and environmental changes, make it difficult for ongoing development, resulting in the reversal of development gains and causing major concern in both the humanitarian and development sectors. These trends highlight the need to focus on methods that encourage closer partnership and engagement between the development, climate change, and humanitarian communities.[64]

Financing Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian assistance has reached a critical point as insufficient resources are over-stretched in an attempt to cover a wider scope of needs for a greater number of crises, requiring renewed focus and energy in order to solve this issue.[65] In 2013, UN humanitarian expenditures reportedly covered only 65 percent of the aid required yet a record US$22 billion in funding were provided.[66] However, in 2014 the UN expenditure increased by an estimated 49 percent while only 56 percent of humanitarian aid needs were met, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA's) financial tracking service.[67] The majority of international humanitarian assistance goes to long-term recipient Member States dealing with protracted or recurrent crises. Since development assistance tends to be a national-level focus, the most vulnerable communities often slip through the cracks as humanitarian assistance from the international community are the only resources available for vulnerable or marginalized communities in Member States receiving aid.[68] Development actors have realized that policies aimed at reducing poverty for large numbers of people often do not work for the most vulnerable, marginalized, or chronically poor populations and political concern to in invest in long-term solutions for these groups has not encouraged changes to national policies.[69] The international humanitarian system was not designed for intervention of this capacity and is certainly not resourced to do the heavy lifting for these vulnerable populations in place of negligent or incapable national governments.

Past attempts to fill the gap between relief and development funding resulted in the use of 'recovery funds' and disaster-specific initiatives but these funds have proven to be an inefficient and ineffective solution to the issues still facing the humanitarian sector. The international community needs to develop a strategy for breaking down the financial and institutional divides in order to make all resource use as efficient as possible for disaster and crises affected populations, which can only be achieved through streamlining public, private, domestic and international resource flows. A multi-sector resourcing approach is mutually beneficial, as it would increase the efficiency of funding and help to bridge the gap, as well as benefiting the people affected by disaster and crises.[70]

The Secretary-General has called for action to close the gap between the growing humanitarian needs and the available funds and resources, and established a High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing in order to

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[60] A/RES/69/283. *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.* United Nations General Assembly. June 23, 2015. http://www.preventionweb.net/files/resolutions/N1516716.pdf (accessed May 7, 2015).
[61] Ibid.
[62] Ibid.
[63] "Opportunities For Strengthening Coherence Between the World Humanitarian Summit and the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction," World Humanitarian Summit, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/466001/download/507758 (accessed May 7, 2015).
[64] Ibid.
[65] "Think Piece: Humanitarian Financing," Global Humanitarian Assistance, http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Final_Financing_Think-Piece_20140116.pdf (accessed July 9, 2015).
[66] Ibid.
[67] Ibid.
[68] Ibid.
[69] Ibid.
[70] Ibid.

explore ways to do just that.[71] The panel is linked with the consultation process of the World Humanitarian Summit. The main challenges the World Humanitarian Summit should focus on in this regard are how to ensure adequate and timely resources in response to the acute and growing humanitarian response needs and how to adequately address the underlying causes of protracted disaster and crises.

Conclusion

The international community as a whole has made great strides on the humanitarian front and yet many issues still exist which limit the ability of Member States and communities to efficiently reduce vulnerability and manage risk. There are many perceptions about what factors are creating barriers to furthering progress in this regard, and these perceptions need to be tested and backed by evidence so that the factors truly creating the largest barriers can be effectively addressed.[72] Several of these perceived factors include the perception that disaster risk management remains a humanitarian priority as opposed to a developmental priority, the tendency to address risks individually rather than the multiple risks people face, a lack of predictability and flexibility in donor funding, and fragmented investment in preparedness and resilience.[73] In order to provide solutions to the various challenges faced by communities in this sector, it is critical to understand the various factors limiting the ability to effectively address said challenges.

At the heart of this theme is the desire and need to achieve the right combination of humanitarian action, development action, climate change adaptation, and political action in order to limit loss of life and suffering, protect livelihoods better, and reduce the long-term need for humanitarian assistance. Focusing on understanding risk, vulnerability and future threats and challenges is critically important to formulating effective solutions. By better incorporating the concept of building resilience as a guiding principle for current and future humanitarian intervention, the humanitarian sector can make a large impact. Humanitarian actors and Member States should consider the economic cost of humanitarian action versus investment in managing risks and reducing vulnerability. Managing recurrent and predictable shocks, managing future uncertainties and unprecedented shocks, the rising risk in urban areas, risk reduction financing, and preparedness and resilience in conflict are several key focus areas identified during the consultation process.

Committee Directives

Resources and aid play a crucial role in implementing risk management and building resilience in regions; however, both are limited. What current tools of funding for DRR exist? What other resources can be utilized to assist in providing for risk management efforts? How can Member States, communities and non-State actors better prepare to respond to the challenge of managing future uncertainties and unprecedented crises? How can the international community incentivize financial donors and Member States to adopt policies which address unprecedented issues? How might humanitarian financing mechanisms and methods need to evolve to more directly support strengthening national and local capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies?

Improved resources and technologies enable Member States to effectively prepare and respond to disasters. Delegates should determine how the international community could improve the understanding and anticipation of the changing nature of risk and vulnerability. A main focus for delegates will be to develop strategies that differentiate between international and regional efforts. How can Member States manage common risk locally, regionally, and internationally?

Delegates should consider the unique challenges, risks, and vulnerability associated with areas affected by prolonged conflicts and attempt to develop long-term solutions for Member States and communities coping with recurrent issues. Delegates should also consider the rising risk in urban areas and consider addressing ways to address these risks on a municipal level. For communities most vulnerable to disaster, what long-term strategies can be taken to reduce the overall humanitarian needs and costs? What can be done to close the gap between early warning systems and response of humanitarian actors? What role do humanitarian organizations play in managing recurrent and predictable shocks, and should there be limits to the level of engagement for these actors?

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[71] "Update on High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing," OCHA, May 14, 2015,
https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CERF/Update%20on%20HLP%20Humanitarian%20Financing%2020150514.pdf (accessed July 9, 2015).
[72] "Scoping Paper - Theme 2: Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk," World Humanitarian Summit,
https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/449456/download/489267 (accessed May 15, 2015).
[73] Ibid.

Theme III: Transformation through Innovation

Introduction

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in the last 10 years, the number of people affected by humanitarian crisis has almost doubled, and the cost of humanitarian assistance has more than tripled.[74] In response to this growing need, the humanitarian system has evolved into an industry, with a plethora of organizations, all with different missions, mandates, and agendas.[75] According to a report released by OCHA on Collaborative Innovation in Humanitarian Affairs, "the dramatic increase in international efforts combined with the expansive network of NGOs means now, more than ever, the humanitarian sector needs greater coordination and communication in order to be more effective."[76] In a growing and evolving world, it is imperative to generate new ideas and stay current with the times. Business and technology sectors utilize innovation hoping to gain a competitive advantage as well as to operate at maximum efficiency. Innovation by definition is, "to make changes in something established, to introduce new ideas and methods in flexible, uncommon ways ... to improve existing programs or to integrate new developments from other sectors, such as advanced technologies."[77] Just as innovation is regularly utilized by the business and technology sectors, the humanitarian sector is faced with an equal need for change and transformation. Understanding how innovation can benefit the humanitarian system is an essential first step.

Innovation within the humanitarian sector is not limited to just technological advancements, but also the innovation of systems and processes within the humanitarian structure. According to the 4Ps Model, innovations can be directed towards improvements or new developments within these four aspects: products, processes, positions, and paradigms.[78] The innovation "of products refers to the improvement of cooking stoves or food products, and technology.[79] Processes include methods for stockpiling goods, improved coordination, or improving learning and quality assurance". Position refers to the position or role an organization and its work in relation to other stakeholders, and innovation in regard to position essentially means changing attitudes towards the work of an organization, or altering the appearance or perception of an organization.[80] Lastly, a paradigm is a new way of looking or thinking about something. A new paradigm in regards to the humanitarian sector could mean a new way of reaching those affected by disasters, changing the way in which actors participate, or changing the overall fundamental approach to humanitarian work.[81] The 4Ps Model allows stakeholders to explore these ideas in the context of humanitarian work, allowing for a new way of understanding where innovation can occur within the system.

The time has come for the humanitarian sector to evolve and adapt to the constantly changing environment. Innovation within the humanitarian system should aim at helping humanitarian actors "respond to disasters and crises with the best partnerships, services, skills and products; and to adopt new methods of working and adapt to new ways of thinking."[82]

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[74] "Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow: Managing the Risk of Humanitarian Crises," OCHA, March 2014, https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OCHA%20SLTT%20Web%20Final%20Single.PDF (accessed May 11, 2015).

[75] Vanessa Humphries, "Improving Humanitarian Coordination: Common Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Cluster Approach," The Journal of Humanitarian Assistance, April 30, 2013, http://sites.tufts.edu/jha/archives/1976 (accessed June 6, 2015).

[76] Mary Eileen Milner and Andrej Verity, "Collaborative Innovation in Humanitarian Affairs: Organization and Governance in the Era of Digital Humanitarianism," OCHA, October 1, 2013, https://app.box.com/s/oq2gdcy466j6bpdvzyxt (accessed June 6, 2015).

[77] "Scoping Paper- Theme 3: Transformation through Innovation," World Humanitarian Summit, http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_Innovation (accessed May 11, 2015).

[78] Ben Ramalingam, et al, "8th Review of Humanitarian Action - Chapter 3: Innovations in International Humanitarian Action," Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP), July 2009, p. 2-3, http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/alnap-rha-2009.pdf (accessed June 7, 2015).

[79] Ibid, p. 4.

[80] Ibid.

[81] Ben Ramalingam, et al, "8th Review of Humanitarian Action - Chapter 3: Innovations in International Humanitarian Action," Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP), July 2009, http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/alnap-rha-2009.pdf (accessed June 7, 2015).

[82] "Scoping Paper- Theme 3: Transformation through Innovation," World Humanitarian Summit, http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_Innovation (accessed May 11, 2015).

Past Crises and Current Initiatives

The humanitarian sector identifies areas in need of change by evaluating past crises and their outcomes. For example, the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs launched the *Inter-agency Real-Time Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response to the Darfur Crisis* in order to identify what future lessons could be learned from the 2004 Darfur crisis.[83] The study found that agencies were unable to organize, mobilize, and gather resources in a timely manner and the aid administered during crisis in Darfur was delayed and inadequate.[84] Due to the amount of violence, there was a weaker field presence than normal and limited humanitarian presence throughout affected areas.[85] Furthermore, significant gaps found in coordination, information sharing, interagency coordination, strategic leadership, and the protection of those in conflict were found.[86] This study reinforced the importance and urgency of improving relief response and developing innovative ways to strengthen to international humanitarian system.

In response to the Darfur Crisis, the United Nations implemented in 2005 a coordination mechanism called the "Cluster Approach"; this was an attempt to increase coordination between humanitarian actors and achieve a more coherent humanitarian response.[87] Ultimately, the goal of the Cluster Approach is to improve the predictability, timeliness, and effectiveness of humanitarian response, and pave the way for recovery.[88] Coordinating relief efforts entails "minimizing the duplication of humanitarian services, whether by filling gaps or preventing overlap, and ensuring various organizations are synchronized to work together to achieve a common objective, thereby enabling a more coherent, effective, and efficient response."[89] Although research establishes that the Cluster Approach has increased the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts, there are still many challenges existing within the approach.[90]

The first challenge facing the Cluster Approach is "the large gaps in predictable leadership."[91] These gaps are mainly due to "the high turnover rates of cluster coordinators, lack of impartiality of cluster lead agencies, and insufficient training and experience of cluster coordinators."[92] The second challenge is that obstacles are preventing inclusive partnerships from developing within the Cluster Approach.[93] A lack of partnerships within the Cluster Approach, the labor intensive aspect of this mechanism and the considerable amount of time and resources required for it to be effective, "it has largely failed to create a sense of NGO ownership and involvement."[94] As a result of these issues, a third challenge to the Cluster Approach is that any existing mechanisms intended to enhance accountability to affected populations have proven insufficient.[95] These challenges, among others, are important to take into consideration and resolve in order to ensure effective humanitarian responses are taking place.

Information Sharing and Increased Collaboration

Resources such as the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) are used for information sharing. ALNAP was established in 1997 as a mechanism to provide a forum on learning, accountability and performance issues for the humanitarian sector.[96] The ALNAP's membership is made up of 6 membership groupings: donor organizations, UN agencies, independent academic

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[83] Vanessa Humphries, "Improving Humanitarian Coordination: Common Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Cluster Approach," The Journal of Humanitarian Assistance, April 30, 2013, http://sites.tufts.edu/jha/archives/1976 (accessed June 6, 2015).

[84] Ibid.

[85] Ibid.

[86] Ibid.

[87] Ibid.

[88] "Humanitarian Health Action: The Cluster Approach," World Health Organization, http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/tools/manuals/who_field_handbook/annex_7/en/ (accessed June 6, 2015).

[89] Ibid.

[90] Vanessa Humphries, "Improving Humanitarian Coordination: Common Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Cluster Approach," The Journal of Humanitarian Assistance, April 30, 2013, http://sites.tufts.edu/jha/archives/1976 (accessed June 6, 2015).

[91] Ibid.

[92] Ibid.

[93] Ibid.

[94] Ibid.

[95] Ibid.

[96] "History," The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP), http://www.alnap.org/about/history (accessed August 25, 2015).

organizations and experts, Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.[97] The ALNAP membership works together to identify common approaches to improved performance; to explore new ways to improve learning and accountability; and to share ideas, lessons and innovations.[98] There is also the State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) that provides an assessment of international humanitarian assistance.[99] It does this by defining key criteria for evaluating system performance and progress.[100] Although entities like the ALNAP and SOHS are valuable sources for sharing information, they are not inclusive. Allowing increased collaboration between academia, startup sectors, and humanitarians could help remedy this.[101] Contributions from unconventional groups outside of the humanitarian sector might allow for better insight and innovation. Currently, there is a lack of platforms to share knowledge about what methods are successful in what situations, making it difficult to innovate in an informed environment.[102]

It is imperative that local communities be included in all levels of communication and the process to innovation. Large numbers of organizations, unfamiliar language and structures imposed in crisis situations can potentially overwhelm local communities. Listening to community leaders about their needs, being more responsive to their concerns, reacting to feedback and making the necessary changes will not only serve to improve responses and generate effective innovations that serve the needs of the local community, but also improve relations.[103] Lastly, during emergency situations it is extremely difficult to gather high quality research data. The increased sharing of information from the establishment of projects to the culmination or end of crises would inform all actors on what has been successful in the past and provide the ability to compare new solutions and practices.[104]

Testing and Funding Innovations

Currently, allowing for the capability to experiment and test innovations is a challenge facing the humanitarian sector. It is critical for innovations to be rigorously tested and evaluated in order to resolve why certain approaches have been unsuccessful and learn from those failures accordingly.[105] Testing innovations prior to an emergency is difficult, and organizations rarely have the capacity or resources in highly stressful environments to properly and thoroughly pilot an innovation. This leads to the testing and designing of innovations outside of emergencies. While this may provide useful feedback, simulating such emergencies is not an accurate reflection of "real life" scenarios, and therefore may not provide verifiable and reliable data and results.[106] In addition, it is hard to secure funding for such projects.

In addition to the need to test innovations success, funding is perhaps the most problematic challenge the humanitarian sector faces. In a given year, an average of USD 17.9 billion is spent on funding humanitarian aid, of which less 10 percent is allocated for other uses.[107] Not only does the system need an increase in funding to maintain and improve its ability to respond to crises, but in order to innovate successfully, there is a need for more funding to test and experiment.[108] While some financiers are unopposed to providing funds for aid response, many are reluctant to give for experimentation purposes. The most central issue for financiers is the current investment structure of the humanitarian system.[109] Traditional methods of funding typically exclude those options that exist outside the humanitarian system and which are arguably the most capable of developing innovations.[110] Possible financiers outside the humanitarian system include those from the social enterprise and

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[97] Ibid.

[98] Ibid.

[99] "The State of the Humanitarian System: Progress Report," ALNAP, May 2014, http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/sohs-2015-progress-report.pdf (accessed August 25, 2015).

[100] Ibid.

[101] Ibid.

[102] Ibid.

[103] Ibid.

[104] "Promoting Humanitarian Innovation Exchanges: Developing Models for Humanitarian Innovation Knowledge Bases," World Humanitarian Summit, March 2015, http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/node/490550 (accessed May 13, 2015).

[105] Ibid.

[106] Ibid.

[107] "Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2013," Global Humanitarian Assistance: A Development Initiative, http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/GHA-Report-20131.pdf (accessed June 7, 2015).

[108] Ibid.

[109] "Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015," Global Humanitarian Assistance: A Development Initiative, http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/GHA-Report-2015_-Interactive_Online.pdf (accessed June 7, 2015).

[110] Ibid.

start-up sector.[111] These sectors have ample resources and experience dealing with innovation and are therefore able to remove the financial burden imposed on humanitarian organizations, who without funding, may have to allocate a majority of their finances for response purposes.[112]

The most notable flaw of the traditional funding system is that it does not currently allow for access to capital gains for investors. Just as any investment, there is a certain level of risk involved, as well as the possibility of failure. Therefore, it is important to understand how the structure of funding can be altered to incorporate instruments and initiatives that reward investment in innovation. The Grand Challenge Initiative is an illustration on an initiative that could be applied to this situation. [113] Challenges in Global Health are "a family of grant programs focused on one unifying purpose- to overcome persistent bottlenecks in creating new tools that can radically improve health in the developing world."[114] If this funding model is successful at promoting innovation within the global health sector, there is potential to experience similar results in the humanitarian sector.[115] Avenues providing funding exclusively for innovation to avoid compromising funds allocated for disaster response are ideal yet financing for innovation is still lacking. The Humanitarian Innovation Fund is one such example; it supports organizations and individuals identify, nurture and share innovative and scalable solutions to the challenges facing effective humanitarian assistance.[116]

Conclusion

Improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, quality or social outcomes and impacts are the results of successful innovations.[117] It could be argued that current inefficient humanitarian approaches are costing lives and that therefore; the humanitarian community has a responsibility to critically reevaluate its practices and seek to improve upon them.[118] It is the hope that there will be effective collaboration between the private sector, academia, national governments and NGOs to improve insufficient processes, infrastructure, tools, and talent to identify, support, validate, and disseminate innovations.[119]

Changing the nature of the modern humanitarian landscape is a difficult task and will require the cooperation and participation of all key players including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), all levels of governments, academia, civil society, donors, and the private sector working to reevaluate their traditional reactive approach, and think more proactively and systematically. Sharing information, testing innovations, and financing innovation are some of the key challenges the humanitarian sector faces in terms of achieving results.

Committee Directives

While the other three themes of the World Humanitarian Summit are mostly concerned about answering questions about *what* needs to change in the humanitarian system. Transformation Through Innovation is concerned with questions of *how* to effect, manage and accelerate change. During the research process, delegates should establish why innovation is important and necessary for the humanitarian sector and what the priority areas for innovation are?

Furthermore, delegates should ask themselves how the humanitarian system could be better organized in order to enable innovation. How can the humanitarian sector establish systems that are self-critical and open to risk and experimentation? What programs, processes, and/or plans have been successful in the past and which haven't? For example, how can challenges facing the Cluster System be resolved or is there a new to develop a more effective coordination initiatives? Can those which have been successful in the past be implemented on a larger scale? Delegates should look at the 4Ps Model and discuss what innovations can be made within in each aspect.

Additionally, an in depth analysis of existing methods of funding is needed to ensure innovation development within the humanitarian sector is increased and supported. How can the structure of funding be altered to

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[111] Ibid.
[112] Ibid.
[113] "The Model for the Grand Challenges," Grand Challenges in Global Health,
        http://gcgh.grandchallenges.org/about/Pages/Overview.aspx (accessed May 17, 2015).
[114] Ibid.
[115] Ibid.
[116] "Funding," The Humanitarian Innovation Fund, http://www.elrha.org/hif/funding/ (accessed June 7, 2015).
[117] Ibid.
[118] Ibid.
[119] Ibid.

incorporate instruments and initiatives that reward investments in innovation? Furthermore, establishing what the roles for key actors are, such as donors, agencies, and most importantly users, in this emerging innovation ecosystem will help to further the progress of this theme. Delegates should attempt to address each challenge presented and provide creative remedies that are representative of all stakeholders.

Theme IV: Serving the Needs of People in Conflict

Introduction

Serving the needs of people affected by conflict (PAC) has been at the forefront of international discussions for many years, but the proliferation of crises occurring around the world emphasizes the necessity to discuss these issues on the humanitarian front.[120] In 2013, 51.2 million people were affected by crisis and by the end of 2014 the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by armed conflict and generalized violence stood at 38 million.[121] [122] By mid-2014, the global refugee population had reached 18.1 million, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.[123] The consequences felt by those affected by conflict include "malnutrition, illness, wounds, torture, and harassment of specific groups within the population, disappearances, extra-judicial executions and the forcible displacement of people."[124]

Humanitarian action is understood as "saving lives and alleviating sufferings in natural disasters, armed conflicts and situations of chronic vulnerability", all of which share similar features which frequently require humanitarian action.[125] Without aid from the humanitarian community, consequences can result in "death, wounds and sickness, psychological trauma, destruction of infrastructure, damage to systems and livelihood, sexual and gender-based violence, forced displacement, human rights abuses and many others".[126] What differentiates natural disasters from conflict situations, however, is the role parties play to a conflict, highlighting the harm caused to people and the harm that can be prevented.[127] Better understanding of recent and existing conflicts demonstrates the need for humanitarian organizations to communicate with parties to a conflict and raises a number of questions regarding the safety of humanitarian aid workers and the importance of international humanitarian law (IHL).[128] Additionally, although conflicts are regulated by IHL and to some extent, international criminal law, the political nature of conflicts means that even the distribution of humanitarian aid in these settings risks becoming politicized.[129] [130]

While the humanitarian system is not equipped to resolve intra-State and military conflicts, it is responsible for resolving how to best address the needs of PAC while upholding the laws and the humanitarian principles in which it operates. Improving relationships between the humanitarian sector and Member States' Governments, or other parties to a conflict, is essential when trying to address the particular needs of PAC and is a crucial component of successful humanitarian action.

International Humanitarian Law and Conflict Resolution

International humanitarian law is part of international law, the body of rules governing relations between Member States, and is designed to mitigate the negative impact of armed conflict for humanitarian purposes; IHL "protects individuals who are not or are no longer participating in the hostilities and restricts the means and methods of warfare."[131] An important distinction must be drawn between IHL and international law in regard to armed conflict: both international law and IHL apply to armed conflict; however IHL does not dictate when it is appropriate for a State to use force, which is only dictated by part of international law as outlined in the UN

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[120] Pierre Perrin, "The Impact of Humanitarian Aid on Conflict Development," The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/57jpcj.htm (accessed April 17, 2015).

[121] *World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2014.* The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). New York and Geneva: United Nations. 2014. http://www.unocha.org/data-and-trends-2014/downloads/World%20Humanitarian%20Data%20and%20Trends%202014.pdf

[122] A70/77-E/2015/64. *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations*. United Nations General Assembly and Economic and Social Council. April 17, 2015.

[123] Ibid.

[124] Pierre Perrin, "The Impact of Humanitarian Aid on Conflict Development," ICRC, https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/misc/57jpcj.htm (accessed April 17, 2015).

[125] "Serving the Needs of People in Conflict. Description of the Main Issues," World Humanitarian Summit, September 1, 2014, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/ru/file/449559/download/489419 (accessed June 13, 2015).

[126] Ibid.

[127] Ibid.

[128] Ibid.

[129] Ibid.

[130] Ibid.

[131] "What is International Humanitarian Law?," ICRC, July 2004, https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/what_is_ihl.pdf (accessed July 18, 2015).

Charter.[132] In addition to IHL, there are four principles providing the foundations for humanitarian action: humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.[133] Upholding these principles is a key proponent of gaining sustainable access to affected people and is an essential element of effective humanitarian coordination.[134] The international humanitarian community must remain cognizant of these principles when addressing the needs of people in conflict.

Currently, there is no international organization for disaster-response that has the authority to sanction Member States found not abiding by IHL or not upholding the principles of humanitarian action.[135] Therefore, in order to further encourage adherence to IHL, "The Code of Conduct" was established in 1994 by The International Red Cross (IRC) for humanitarian NGOs to abide by.[136] Compliance to the Code is voluntary: the Code identifies ten standards for humanitarian actors to adhere to, and illustrates the relationships humanitarian actors should seek with donor governments, host governments and the UN system.[137]

The Role of Parties to a Conflict

It is important to highlight and distinguish the difference between how the humanitarian community responds to conflict situations versus its response to other emergencies. The distinction between the two scenarios is the role played by parties to a conflict. Parties to a conflict have the ability to adopt measures which could potentially reduce civilian harm and improve humanitarian conditions by "adjusting their behavior over the course of a conflict, adopting new methods of warfare, or discontinuing the use of others."[138] The potential to heighten or lessen the level or violence often results in more dynamic environments than those existing during natural disasters.[139] According to IHL, "Member States bear the primary responsibility of ensuring the basic needs of civilian populations under its control" and IHL dictates how it operates in conflict situations.[140] International law prohibits Member States from "interfering directly or indirectly in the internal or external affairs of any other Member State where such interference threatens that Member State's sovereignty, its territorial integrity, or political independence."[141]

Although Member States are aware of available assistance, there is often an issue with who delivers or provides the aid and not necessarily with what is being delivered. For example, in Somalia, local leaders opined that UN peacekeeping missions were not neutral in the region, and therefore, the flow of humanitarian assistance was hindered.[142] Difficulties have arisen with regard to the failure by Member States and parties to armed conflict to give consent to the conduct of relief operations despite the evident need of the civilian population.[143] Better communication between actors and community leaders will help distinguish whether the government is opposed to receiving assistance or not, which is the case in some instances, particularly for those States with internal conflict or civil unrest. Communication with local community leaders during conflict becomes crucial when humanitarians need to access populations most impacted by the crisis. Open lines of communication can strengthen accountability mechanisms by creating channels for feedback from the community.[144]

Humanitarian actors have an obligation to protect vulnerable groups and in compliance with IHL, but in armed conflict areas, humanitarians themselves necessitate protection as well. The last ten years represent one of the

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[132] Ibid.
[133] "Humanitarian Principles," OCHA, April 2010,
     https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OOM_HumPrinciple_English.pdf (accessed July 18, 2015).
[134] Ibid.
[135] "The Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental
     Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief," The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,
     http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/code-of-conduct/ (accessed July 19, 2014).
[136] Ibid.
[137] Ibid.
[138] "Serving the Needs of People in Conflict. Description of the Main Issues," World Humanitarian Summit, September 1,
     2014, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/ru/file/449559/download/489419 (accessed June 13, 2015).
[139] Ibid.
[140] Ibid.
[141] "What is International Humanitarian Law?," ICRC, July 2004, https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/what_is_ihl.pdf
     (accessed July 18, 2015).
[142] Ibid.
[143] Ibid.
[144] Ibid.

worst decades in terms of attacks on humanitarian workers and lack of humanitarian access.[145] When people in need are deprived of aid because relief workers are attacked or blocked, it is a blatant disregard for international law.[146]

Needs of People Affected by Conflict

People affected by conflict (PAC) include conflict affected residents (CARs), individuals affected by conflict who, for any reason, did not flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, refugees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs).[147] The forced displacement of PAC saw an accelerated growth in 2014, with more than 59.5 million individuals forcibly displaced around the world as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations.[148] To date, this is the highest annual increase in a single year, as 8.3 million more individuals were displaced than in the previous year (51.2 million).[149]

Gaining sustainable access to PAC is one of the main challenges for providing effective humanitarian assistance, which should be made available to all vulnerable groups regardless of gender, age, social, religious, or political affiliation.[150] While humanitarian action is expected to be based on assistance and protection needs of all affected people, many vulnerable groups, particularly CARs, often remain invisible or blocked from humanitarian access.[151] Conflicts affect people in specific ways which are often unique to conflict situations, or exacerbated in conflict settings. Conflict can results in executions, disappearances, detention, inhumane treatment, child recruitment, attacks on places such as schools and hospitals, and a general lack of respect for the legal standards.[152] Many of these are unique to armed conflict or take place during conflicts significantly more often than in other emergencies.[153] Even issues that are seen with other types of emergencies, such as sexual/gender-based violence and forced displacement, have specific dynamics that are exacerbated during conflict, and thus must be carefully considered.[154]

Conclusion

The humanitarian community must reevaluate the way it renders aid to people in conflict, taking a more sensitive approach when addressing their needs. Conflict areas are becoming increasingly complex and as the number of conflicts occurring throughout the world rises, it is becoming more and more difficult to operate safely in these environments. The need for greater adherence to humanitarian principles and law, timely access to affected populations and better protection of civilians is urgent, and requires collaboration from all stakeholders. By recognizing the specific needs of vulnerable groups, it is possible to make an objective assessment and improve future work. Dedicated focus on key action areas will allow for the humanitarian sector to adapt their actions in conflict-affected areas, key action areas being: how to combine protection and assistance in order to respond to the risks that people in conflict face, identifying necessary measures to ensure the security of humanitarian workers, and improving models of partnerships between local Governments (or parties to conflict) and humanitarian actors.

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[145] Jan Egeland, et al., "To Stay and Deliver: Good Practice for Humanitarians in Complex Security Environments," OCHA Policy Development and Studies Branch, 2011, https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Stay_and_Deliver.pdf (accessed August 26, 2015).

[146] Ibid.

[147] *People Affected by Conflict 2013: Humanitarian Needs in Numbers*. Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). Belgium: Université Catholique de Louvain, School of Public Health. 2013. http://cred.be/sites/default/files/PAC2013.pdf (accessed July 24, 2015).

[148] *UNHCR Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2014*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. New York and Geneva: United Nations. 2015. http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendocPDFViewer.html?docid=556725e69&query=global trends (accessed July 24, 2015).

[149] Ibid.

[150] Ibid.

[151] *People Affected by Conflict 2013: Humanitarian Needs in Numbers*. Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). Belgium: Université Catholique de Louvain, School of Public Health. 2013. http://cred.be/sites/default/files/PAC2013.pdf (accessed July 24, 2015).

[152] "Serving the Needs of People in Conflict. Description of the Main Issues," World Humanitarian Summit, September 1, 2014, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/ru/file/449559/download/489419 (accessed June 13, 2015).

[153] Ibid.

[154] Ibid.

Committee Directives

During discussion surrounding IHL and the four principles of humanitarian actions, delegates should discuss whether there is a need for establishing an enforcement mechanism to ensure humanitarian actors abide by IHL. Is stricter adherence to IHL necessary and if so, how would this be achieved? Would it be more useful to establish humanitarian standards for the different forms of humanitarian response versus establishing set standards for organizations as a whole? Delegates should discuss whether there is a need for the establishment of an open dialogue between humanitarian actors and parties to a conflict. What kind of dialogue (if any) with parties to a conflict should humanitarians engage in? Delegates should also seek to clarify or outline the role humanitarian actor's play during conflict situations in relation to IHL to ensure their safety.

How can the humanitarian sector better empower and strengthen its coordination with the role play of national and local governments? The humanitarian sector should seek to foster meaningful dialogue with local governments and communities engaged in conflict areas, while still maintaining the four principles. How can there be more coherent and long-term planning, investment, and joint action among humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding actors to adequately meet peoples' needs in protracted conflict situations?

Delegates should attempt to identify other needs existing within the theme. For example, people affected by conflict frequently list security among their main or highest concerns. Delegates should take into consideration of the needs and concerns of those in the most vulnerable groups (the LGBTQ community, women, children, etc.). How can the international community better ensure the safety of those they are assisting in addition to the safety of humanitarian aid providers? Given that humanitarian actors usually have little influence over the degree to which parties to conflict respect IHL, what new ideas could work in ensuring affected peoples' safe access to humanitarian relief and the safety of humanitarian actors?

Technical Appendix Guide (TAG)

"WHS: The Road to Istanbul," World Humanitarian Summit, August 17, 2015,
https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/504882/view/550210.
This document from the WHS website provides a succinct timeline and roadmap of the WHS consultation process up through August 17, 2015. It explains the consultation process and outcomes of the process to date. Delegates should review this document in order to understand the key critical focus areas based on the meetings of the various thematic teams and regional consultations. By focusing research in these key areas of focus, Delegates will encourage an authentic and meaningful committee experience.

"Global Forum for Improving Humanitarian Action," ALNAP, June 2015, http://www.alnap.org/what-we-do/effectiveness/global-forum.
Delegates should familiarize themselves with this website and with the Global Forum itself in order to have a successful committee experience. This webpage includes links to the seven briefing papers resulting from the Global Forum process, and synthesized from the myriad position papers and documents generated through the World Humanitarian Summit and consultation process. The website also provides links to speeches given at the Forum, as well as the results and analysis document, which can be found directly at http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/alnap-global-forum-summary-paper.pdf.

Theme I: Humanitarian Effectiveness

"GHA Report 2014 - Global Humanitarian Assistance," Global Humanitarian Assistance, 2014, http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/gha-report-2014.
This is a comprehensive study and analysis of current global trends and statistics and answers questions such as "how many people are affected by crisis?" and "how much humanitarian assistance is there and is it enough?" Additionally, critical areas have been outlined, the first detailing the resources utilized by crisis-affected people such as development assistance, government revenues, remittances and peacekeeping. The second area discusses the need for better data to be made available, both on resources and also on the impacts of crises on different groups of people, highlighting the limited available data for fragile and conflict-affected Member States.

Jeremy Harkey, "Experiences of National Governments in Expanding Their Role in Humanitarian Preparedness and Response," Feinstein International Center, 2014, http://fic.tufts.edu/assets/TUFTS_13118_Humanitarian_response_V3print.pdf.
This paper presents the findings of four case studies on how national governments strengthen their capacity to manage natural disasters and looks at what factors contributed to each Member States decision and ability to strengthen their national system. The paper lays out what the strengthening process consisted of and what role different actors played in the processes. How the four Member States emerged from a state of perpetual conflict and crisis in order to strengthen their ability to prepare for, reduce the risk of, respond to, and ultimately recover from natural disasters and crisis is examined. The four Member State case studies are of El Salvador, Mozambique, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Rachel Scott, "Imagining More Effective Humanitarian Aid: A Donor Perspective," OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, October 2014, http://www.oecd.org/dac/Imagining%20More%20Effective%20Humanitarian%20Aid_October%202014.pdf.
This goal of this paper is to promote discussion around the idea of humanitarian effectiveness and provides an initial summary of thinking about humanitarian effectiveness, both today and into the future, from the perspective of a donor and discusses the benefit of common framework for humanitarian effectiveness, designed to promote collective responsibility and mutual accountability. This unique perspective will prove to be invaluable to delegates and serve as a great source of information during the research process. Eleven donors provided either oral or written submissions for this paper and presents a synthesis of those submissions which complement a separate body of research commissioned by the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Theme II: Reducing Vulnerability and Managing Risk

Proceedings of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. United Nations Conference on
> Disaster Risk Reduction. New York and Geneva: United Nations. 2015.
> http://www.unisdr.org/files/45069_proceedingsthirdunitednationsworldc.pdf.

This major report can be found online by accessing the link above. Delegates can sample from the opening
ceremony statements, high level dialogues, working session papers, special meetings, and more from this
inclusive collection of the proceedings of the five day Third UN conference on Disaster Risk Reduction taking
place on 14-18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan. Of critical importance, delegates should certainly review the
Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well as the
Framework chart that are included in the proceedings document.

Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow: Managing the Risk of Humanitarian Crises. United Nations Office for the
> Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. New York and Geneva: United Nations. 2014.
> https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/OCHA%20SLTT%20Web%20Final%20Single.PDF.

This OCHA report may be one of the most critical documents for delegates to review and comprehend to
prepare for this thematic discussion. It discusses disaster risk reduction and specifically relates it to the
humanitarian sector. This report calls for a paradigm shift in humanitarian response, away from a reactive
response and towards a proactive, preventive approach.

Samuel Carpenter, "Strengthening National and Local Response and Risk Management Capacity: Towards
> More Effective International Support and Investment," World Humanitarian Summit, May 26, 2015,
> http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/%5Bcarpenter%5D-2014-05-26-whs-position-paper-nl-capacity-paper-
> for-gf.pdf.

This paper synthesizes evidence from various research programs on Disaster Risk Management capacity-
building at the local and national level, as well as "information synthesized from across International Red Cross
and Red Crescent Movement....and the wider humanitarian, DRM and development communities."[155] It
provides policy recommendations, suggestions on implementation, and suggestions for building momentum in
this area.

"The Urbanization of Emergencies - Adapting Humanitarian Action to a Changing World," World Humanitarian
> Summit, April 2015, http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/%5Burban-expert-group%5D-the-urbanisation-
> of-emergencies.pdf.

This synthesis paper focuses on how the humanitarian system can adapt to better support urban/city systems in
establishing or advancing resilience to potential future crises. Delegates should review this document to gain
perspective on the different challenges that different types of environments have in regard to managing risk and
reducing vulnerability to disaster.

Theme III: Transformation through Innovation

Sarah Binger, et al., "Principled Approach to Innovation," International Federation of Red Cross and Red
> Crescent Societies, 2015, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/505052/download/550407.

Compiled specifically as a result of the World Humanitarian Summit process, this report provides a great basic
background to what innovation is and how it applies to the humanitarian sector. It focuses on how innovation
can be generated while maintaining key humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality,
independence, voluntary service, and unity. The Red Cross and Red Crescent urge all humanitarian innovators
and actors to adopt ethical standards and principles that can be applied to their programs and processes.

"The Humanitarian R&D Imperative: How Other Sectors Overcame Impediments to Innovation," World
> Humanitarian Summit and the Deloitte Humanitarian Innovation Program, March 2015,
> https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/490549/download/534537.

This report argues that the humanitarian sector needs to invest in research and development (R&D) in order to
successfully innovate. It provides background information on some of the key barriers preventing the sector

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[155] Samuel Carpenter, "Strengthening National and Local Response and Risk Management Capacity: Towards More
> Effective International Support and Investment," World Humanitarian Summit, May 26, 2015,
> http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/%5Bcarpenter%5D-2014-05-26-whs-position-paper-nl-capacity-paper-for-gf.pdf
> (accessed August 1, 2015).

from engaging in impactful R&D, and suggests that despite these barriers, it is possible to realize the full innovative potential behind R&D. The report includes six different case studies showing how other sectors faced similar impediments - and overcame them.

Alexander Betts, et al., "Refugee Innovation: Humanitarian Innovation That Starts with Communities," The Humanitarian Innovation Project, University of Oxford, July 2015, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/502010/download/546904.

This paper focuses on innovation as it specifically applies to and impacts refugees. It explores the challenges specific to this vulnerable population and challenges the humanitarian sector to rethink their approach and practices. The paper argues that crisis-affected communities are often some of the most adaptive and innovative communities, perhaps out of a necessity to cope with the pressures they are put under. Delegates will gain an understanding of "bottom-up" problem solving, and also gain a better understanding of innovation as it specifically applies to a particularly vulnerable group.

Ben Ramalingam, et al., "Innovations in International Humanitarian Action," ALNAP, https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/455610/download/496068.

Ben Ramalingam, et al., "Strengthening the Humanitarian Innovation Ecosystem: Humanitarian Innovation Ecosystem Research Project Final Report," May 2015, The University of Brighton Centre for Research in Innovation Management (CENTRIM), https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/file/501554/download/546347.

These two documents share common themes and several common authors, and so have been grouped together accordingly. The authors of these reports argue that the current humanitarian sector's approaches stifle innovation by focusing heavily on existing practices and policies, and actively seek to remove variances or deviations from operational standards. Many humanitarian organizations adopt policies and operational standards that discourage challenging existing practices and thus the very culture of these organizations can discourage innovative practices. These reports offer suggestions on how to begin transformational change in order to ensure innovation is encourage at both the organizational level and throughout the humanitarian sector.

Theme IV: Serving the Needs of People in Conflict

Elizabeth Ferris, "Ten Years After Humanitarian Reform: How Have IDPs Fared?," The Brookings Project on Internal Displacement, January 12, 2015, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2014/12/29-idp-humanitarian-reform-reports/introduction-to-final-report-idp-study-final.pdf.

This independent study, carried out between July and September 2014, focuses on internal displacement within three Member States: Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Somalia. Although all represent large-scale protracted displacement, the three cases are affected by very different situations and the role of international actors is individual to each of them. Delegates should take advantage of the information presented in this summary as it seeks to highlight the main findings and recommendations with a focus on recommendations primarily directed toward international agencies.

"Humanitarian Access in Situations of Armed Conflict: Handbook on the International Normative Framework & Practictioners' Manual, Version 2," OCHA Reliefweb, December 2014, http://reliefweb.int/report/world/humanitarian-access-situations-armed-conflict-handbook-international-normative.

This webpage actually has two documents associated with it, which can be downloaded by following the links provided on the website. The Handbook and Practitioners' Manual on the international framework of humanitarian access were developed in the wake of an initiative from Switzerland in 2009 in order to develop practical resources on humanitarian access in situations of armed conflict and is intended to serve as a point of reference to enhance access to civilian populations in need. In response to challenges surrounding the difficulties in "securing and sustaining humanitarian access" and the key role access plays in contributing to humanitarian assistance, this Handbook does an exceptional job of outlining keys issues within international humanitarian law and the roles of parties to a conflict.

Ashley Jackson, "Humanitarian Negotiations with Armed Non-State Actors: Key Lessons from Afghanistan, Sudan and Somalia," Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG), March 2014, http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8847.pdf.

Delegates should take advantage of information expounded on in this report as it discusses in depth the critical need for humanitarian providers working in conflict areas to engage with all parties to the conflict in order to reach those in need of assistance in addition to advocating on the issue of protection. It further highlights how accessing areas under the control of armed non-state actors (ANSAs) requires careful yet sustained dialogue and how effective engagement with armed groups requires considerable staff commitment, resources and capacity. This report summarizes the key lessons learned during a two-year research project on humanitarian negotiations with ANSAs in Afghanistan, Somalia and Sudan.