



EVENT SUMMARY 2018

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW)
5-9 February 2018



Humanitarian Networks & Partnerships Week (HNPW) 2018

Event Summary

The fourth Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) was held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland from 5 to 9 February 2018. Hosted by the Swiss Government and organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), with the collaboration of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the event consolidated itself as one of the key conferences for humanitarian operational partners in Geneva.

HNPW is the annual event of the Leading Edge Programme, a year-round collaborative platform to strengthen inter-network collaboration in humanitarian response and preparedness. The Leading Edge Programme was launched at the HNPW 2017 in a ceremony chaired by OCHA's former Under Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien. Since its official launch, this initiative has gained momentum, and it's recognized by partners as a unique opportunity to bring together the work of operational networks and partnerships in crisis preparedness and response.

HNPW 2018 was attended by 1,500 participants (a 20% increase from its previous edition) representing a diversity of organizations from all over the world, including UN agencies, funds and programs, Government, the military, Red Cross and Red Crescent movement,

the private sector and academia. More than 75 annual meetings and consultations of 31 Networks and Partnerships were held throughout the week.

The second Inter-Network Day took place on Wednesday, 7 February. This full-day event brought together nearly 900 participants who attended the 20 thematic sessions, speed networking events and visited the exhibition area. The Inter-Network Day also hosted the first Strategy Meeting of the Leading Edge Programme, attended by high level representatives of networks and partnerships, to discuss the future of the programme and define its mid-term strategy. In her closing remarks of the day, Assistant to the Secretary General and Deputy Emergency Coordinator Ursula Mueller, highlighted OCHA's commitment to continue to provide the necessary support to this initiative by strengthening its role as Secretariat of the Leading Edge Programme.

HNPW 2019 is planned to take place from 4-8 February 2019 at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG).



Summary of Networks and Partnerships Annual Meetings & Consultations

More than 30 Networks and Partnerships held their annual meetings and consultations throughout the week. See below summaries of their sessions, including links to the extended on-line versions.

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) Consultations

The Consultations on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) comprised a full-day plenary of the UN-CMCoord Consultative Group, four thematic events and a UN-CMCoord - Emergency Medical Team inter-network meeting. An array of experienced panellists ensured high quality and strategic and operational relevance of the events. In addition, 26 bilateral meetings took place during HNPW, as well as a private meeting among UN Agencies. In her welcome remarks, ASG Mueller re-affirmed OCHA's continued leadership and engagement in UN-CMCoord. Discussions highlighted common interest and concerns among UN-CMCoord stakeholders and across HNPW networks. Trust-building and dialogue with all actors, were seen as crucial for humanitarian-military interaction and in humanitarian access to people in need.

Stakeholders agreed that the latest version of the draft Recommended Practices - previously 'Standards' - on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination reflects most comments received during last year's Consolidation Process. The Chair reiterated that it is a non-binding and living document intended to assist an efficient

response to people in need. Progress made would be the subject for the 2018 extraordinary CG meeting in the margins of ECOSOC HAS.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

Connecting Business initiative (CBI)

The Connecting Business initiative (CBI) held a number of events throughout the week, including its Executive Committee Meeting (ExCom), Annual Event, Working Sessions for member networks and bilateral meetings. The event reaffirmed the interest from private sector and humanitarian actors to collaborate. Collective private sector action reduces duplication and maximizes impact and the humanitarian community should further explore how to work better with private sector networks. The private sector also appreciates the humanitarian actors working more closely with one another, helping to navigate the system.

One of the key take-aways from the events held throughout the week are the great interest of the private sector in preparedness. More focus in that area from the humanitarian community would also be encouraged (currently only 0.5% of the funding goes to preparedness). Private sector should be considered as a strategic partner across all stages of preparedness, response and recovery.

Only 1% of humanitarian aid is estimated to focus on innovation. The private sector contributes a lot into humanitarian innovation and has further potential. Innovation developed could be applicable across



countries and better information sharing would help to facilitate learning and absorption of innovation more broadly.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action](#)

A number of events held throughout the event contributed to raise awareness and to exchange on how to contribute to greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in various aspects of humanitarian action. Persons with disabilities are indeed disproportionately affected during humanitarian crisis and emergency situations. Seldom are they meaningfully consulted nor actively involved in the decision-making processes which affect their lives.

An open session held on the Inter-Network Day was an opportunity to challenge participants from other networks to reflect on how to include persons with disabilities in their work. Major points discussed included the need to make available appropriate information sources and guidance; to take into account particularly underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, and what can be done to better include organizations and networks of persons with disabilities in the various phases of humanitarian action.

The session about the impact and expectations of the [Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#) attracted much interest and allowed to gather support and identify next steps. Key takeaways from the discussion touched upon the need of consistent and strong political will to ensure inclusion of persons with

disabilities permeates at field level. The second session focused on the work towards globally-endorsed UN system-wide Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, that are being developed by a dedicated [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Task Team](#) gathering more than 60 organizations. The Guidelines, to be finalized by end 2018, will assist humanitarian actors, governments and affected communities to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions that foster the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

At HNPW, the “[Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities](#)” were also launched, designed to help address the gap in understanding the needs, capacities and rights of older people and people with disabilities, and to promote their inclusion in humanitarian action.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

[Simulation and Training Network \(STN\)](#)

The Simulation and Training Network (STN) meeting focused on the discussion around modalities for collaboration among exercise designers. The meeting resulted in the following recommendations: a) A virtual Community of Practice will be established on the Virtual OSOCC in a dedicated STN workspace to facilitate information exchange and collaboration in various areas of interest and b) The STN identified three working groups to advance the objectives of the initiative. These are: Pre-exercise training, Creation of a Knowledge Base and Development of an on-line application to provide a



comprehensive overview of international, regional and national mechanisms, tools, services, and actors that are activated or engaged in different scenarios.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

Virtual OSOCC Moderator Consultation

The purpose of the Virtual OSOCC Moderator Consultation was to inform about the creation of the Virtual OSOCC Community of Practice, established in 2017, to identify modalities and areas for collaboration and information exchange. The following recommendations were made: a) The Virtual OSOCC workspace will be used for information exchange and collaboration. Dedicated discussion threads will be established for different areas of interest; b) Video tutorials should be developed rather than user-manuals, and a Q&A section established in the VO Moderator workspace. A newsletter to be considered to update users on new features and planned developments; c) Several improvements to the Virtual OSOCC were recommended, including a revision of the interface; d) A new feature in support of simulation exercises will be developed to create exercise templates and facilitate inject management.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

Global Crisis Centre Network (GCCN)

The annual Global Crisis Centre Network (GCCN) meeting provided an update of activities in 2017 as well as an update on the EU ARISTOLTE project, and a presentation by the US State Department about the humanitarian information landscape. The meeting resulted in the following recommendations:

- The definitions of regions in the GCCN will be related to the membership of the regional organization, and not related to geographical or political regions.
- A standardized catalogue of relevant information products will be developed to facilitate information collection and sharing in the first disaster phase. This will be done in close cooperation with existing initiatives such as the IWG-SEM, HDX, drawing into consideration product catalogues of specialized organizations (e.g. MapAction).
- The GCCN will continue to introduce and test its SOP in simulation exercises in 2018.
- It was agreed to activate the GCCN in real emergencies with interested members in 2018.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).



Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

The annual GDACS meeting discussed the results of the GDACS survey, which suggests that GDACS tools and services are useful but more needs to be done to raise awareness among stakeholders. At the meeting, updates were provided on the latest developments of GDACS services, including the launch of the revised [GDACS website](#), the revised alerting protocols to manage alert uncertainty, the creation of a Virtual OSOCC Moderator Community of Practice, an update of the Mapping Satellite Coordination System (SMCS), an introduction of the new GDACS cyclone forecasting methodology, and latest developments of on-demand operational weather forecasts. The meeting resulted in the following recommendations:

- Targeted awareness raising among GDACS stakeholders will be established to introduce relevant GDACS services
- GDACS will actively 2018 engage with other networks to identify areas for collaboration
- The chairmanship will be handed over from Armenia to EC/JRC at the 2019 GDACS meeting

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

Private Sector Partnerships

The aim of the Private Sector Partnerships program at the HNPW 2018 was to bring together IASC partners, humanitarian clusters, the private sector and other partners and to take stock of evolving

partnership approaches as well as share good practices and lessons learned on how partnership collaboration should evolve in the future.

The program was facilitated by OCHA in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, ICRC, IFRC, the Logistics Cluster, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and the Connecting Business initiative, and featured private sector speakers from ARM, MasterCard, Vodafone Foundation, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation and the World Economic Forum. The program consisted of three sessions that took place on Monday, 5 February.

The Welcome & Orientation session gave an overview of the week ahead and highlighted which parts of the HNPW program might be of interest to the private sector. OCHA senior management delivered keynote remarks and briefed on the organization's revised approach to private sector engagement going forward. The session also presented key outcomes of the UN Secretary-General's wider reform package of the UN Development System on the 2030 Agenda, in particular on the role of partnerships with the private sector. As these changes are not happening in a vacuum, the World Economic Forum briefed on the key outcomes of its annual meeting in Davos and on the areas of work its humanitarian program will focus on in 2018.

The Future of Public Private Partnerships session created a dynamic exchange among panellists from the public and private sector and actively engaged with more than 120 participants in the room. The discussion touched upon some well-known dichotomies and dilemmas on partnerships for humanitarian action, such as whether partnerships should focus on philanthropy or on tapping into private



Leading Edge Programme

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week
5 - 9 February 2018

sector resources and innovation potential; what is the role of preparedness and long-term planning and the importance of greater coordination among humanitarian actors.

The session Engagement with the Private Sector – lessons from humanitarian service providers focused on how certain humanitarian clusters engage with the private sector and what are the various coordination models in doing that. Partnerships between the private sector and clusters is a relatively new area of engagement. While about a third of participants in the room had experience with humanitarian coordination, many clusters are still at the beginning of exploring their engagement with the private sector. The Logistics Cluster, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation presented examples of their partnerships with the Logistics Emergency Team; GSMA, Ericsson and Facebook; and the first private sector operated Emergency Operations Center in the Philippines.

A full summary report of the event can be found [here](#).

Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP)

Matthew Serventy, Global Preparedness Partnership GPP Secretariat moderated a panel discussion with Ambassador H.E Evan P. Garcia - Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the UN, Ms Marcy Vigoda - Chief, Resource Mobilization Branch, OCHA and Mr Dylan Winder - Senior Adviser Humanitarian and Protracted Crises / Counsellor, UK Mission to the UN.

A very successful panel discussion with speakers looking at both preparedness financing, and how to prepare financing for response. The event was well received by all guests, and was full by the end. The intention was not to discuss the GPP, but preparedness and financing generally, however the GPP was mentioned at times. 38 participants voted on 12 suggested questions in 'pigeonhole'.

A networking event including ten of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) initiatives; GPP, Compact for Young People, Urban Alliance, DEMAC initiative, Connecting Business initiative, Disability Charter, Platform of Disaster Displacement, Grand Bargain, Charter for Change, Regional Organisations Humanitarian Action network (ROHAN), took place on Friday. Participants identified areas for collaboration. Follow up meetings will be held in Geneva where possible, and an event in the margins of ECOSOC HAS is likely to strengthen the links between initiatives.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

Stand-by Partnership (SBP)

The Stand-by Partnership (SBP) held its Annual Consultation on Monday 5 February within the HNPW. This year the event was co-chaired by UNHCR and NORCAP, and gathered over 20 UN agencies and Stand-by Partners. Discussions centred around the SBP identity and nature of collaboration as well as on duty of care and capacity building for surge personnel.



Discussions highlighted that much more could be done to collect, analyze and share quantitative and qualitative information on the SBP. This was also emphasized at the donor meeting on Wednesday 7 February, in which OCHA participated on the Panel together with UNHCR, NORCAP and DRC. In connection with the need for more systematic information sharing and greater visibility of the SBP, OCHA has been supporting the re-establishment of a SBP Support Function to closely work with the SBP Training Secretariat.

The second area of focus during the annual consultations was on duty of care. UNHCR was invited to brief on the work of the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM)'s working group "Reconciling Duty of Care for UN personnel while operating in high risk environments". The presentation was followed by an update from the SBP duty of care working group that was formed a year ago to look into areas where improvements could be made across the SBP. Duty of care was also discussed in several bilateral meetings and remains of great importance, including ensuring closer alignment with higher level discussions and decisions within the HLCM.

The full summary report of the event can be found [here](#).

International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)

For the first time, the ISG 2018 was conducted in two parts. The ISG Closed Meeting included the participation of the Global, the Regional and the Troika chair members, the Working Group Chairs and the INSARAG Secretariat. This ensured a more focused and effective

approach to consultations and empowered the Regional Chairs to take a greater ownership and convey the feedback from their regions. The deliberations were based on the key policy and technical issues that have been consulted upon in all the major regional and team leader meetings of 2017.

The decisions made during the first meeting, which were based on sound reasoning, collective consensus and with the regional feedback taken into account, were then brought forward to the second part, the ISG Open Meeting. Regional Chairs and Working Group Chairs represented the ISG in presenting the collective and agreed recommendations to the wider participants of the ISG – including member countries with INSARAG classified teams, partners and the HNPW network participants. This approach has been endorsed and will be the model of the future governance of INSARAG.

The meeting was attended by 152 participants from 54 Member States and Organisations including Regional Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Working Group Chairs, National Focal Points and representatives from the IEC (INSARAG External Classification)-classified teams. The meeting was facilitated by OCHA's Coordination Division's former FCSS in its capacity as INSARAG Secretariat.

The key results were the strong and united consensual decisions on important policy and technical issues that were discussed earlier in the 2017 regional and team leaders meetings, and brought forward to the closed ISG meeting earlier in the morning, moving INSARAG forward.



Agendas, Participants list and PowerPoint files, decision matrix and other relevant documents and products for the respective sessions are available [here](#).

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

The UNDAC Advisory Board meeting on 6 February was attended by more than 100 participants. Advisory Board members consisted of members and delegations from UNDAC member countries, member organizations, and operational support partners. The meeting aimed to provide strategic direction on further strengthening the UNDAC system ensuring it is well positioned in the evolving operational environment and fit for purposed as an international response mechanism and discuss the UNDAC strategy for 2018-2021, aligned with the OCHA Strategic Plan 2018-2021; provide recommendations; and agree on the next steps to finalise the strategy for the subsequent endorsement by the Advisory Board.

Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Ursula Mueller opened the meeting. In her Opening remarks, she highlighted the need for strong humanitarian partnerships that build on local, national and international capacities to ensure a high-quality humanitarian response, as local and national authorities are increasingly taking control of the humanitarian response and national and international organizations investing more in disaster risk preparedness, among other through use and development of technologies.

The UNDAC Strategy 2018-2021 was presented for consultation to the UNDAC Advisory Board. The strategy ensures UNDAC as a rapid response tool managed by OCHA for sudden onset and escalating emergencies in support of affected government and HCTs, by maintaining immediate response capacity to deploy within 48 hours through strong system management, response methodology. The new strategy emphasizes the role of UNDAC as a team with combined capability of highly qualified UNDAC members (from member countries and organizations), operational support partners (e.g. MapAction, IHP, TSF, DHL) and associate experts (e.g. from the JEU environmental emergency roster or EU) that provides a range of expert support and services to affected government and HCTs in the first phase of the response (first 4 weeks) in operational areas of coordination (e.g. government liaison and support, inter-cluster coordination, USAR, CMCoord), assessment & analysis supported by information management.

The UNDAC Advisory Board discussed and commented on the UNDAC strategy in the afternoon. The members expressed their general approval of the aim and objectives of the draft strategy, while commenting that the document should be more specific, shorter and include a logical framework. OCHA will incorporate these suggestions and comments made at the meeting and work with the existing working group to finalize the strategy by April.

The full summary report of the event can be found [here](#).



Conflict Analysis Network

The Conflict Analysis Network held various sessions throughout the week. In its session Conflict analysis for Humanitarians, linking with Peacebuilding, the findings of LSE Consultancy Team's research were presented. During the session, it was agreed to promote the sharing of conflict analysis between humanitarians, military and other groups. There is a need for a forum to share information analysis and ensure its quality. Some of the outcomes of the session include the agreement to establish a Conflict Analysis Network with a list of members, and the decision to meet at least once before HNPW 2019.

A session on Action Learning for Conflict Analysis (ALCA): The Micro-Dynamics of Humanitarian Knowledge Production in Protracted Crises, was also held during the week. The project was presented to diverse participants, within the context of OCHA's efforts to develop skills for OCHA staff and partners, and elements of conflict analysis that could link humanitarian action and peacebuilding were explained. The researchers from the Graduate Institute /CCDP highlighted their findings from the joint mission to Colombia in November 2017, explaining next steps. Missions to the Philippines and other countries are planned to examine how conflict analysis and knowledge are produced and disseminated. Some donors showed interests in further discussions. OCHA-Colombia presented how it uses conflict analysis through its unique examples and working modalities (UMAIC/ Information management and analysis unit and Local Coordination Teams). The Head of Office also discussed the effectiveness and limitation of its analyses informing

decision-making. Funding needs to be channelled across peacebuilding priorities and persisting humanitarian needs. Mobilizing resources for the ALCA project to develop a training module for improving staff skills in the context of protracted crises, was identified as a priority.

The full outcome report of the sessions can be found [here](#).

ESUPS Steering Group

The Emergency Supply Pre-Positioning Strategies (ESUPS) Working Group, currently funded by USAID and governed by a Steering Group co-chaired by Welthungerhilfe and UNHRD, met during HNPW 2018. Some of the outcomes of the meetings held throughout the week include: a) Collaboration among stakeholders and building trust is the key and a process of accountability to better make procurement decisions and to speed emergency response; b) Models and metrics analysis should be done in more locations and must consider having a balance between closeness and too far away of impacted areas by disasters to respond effectively; c) Strengthen country and sub regional structures complements international pre-positioning; d) Global stocks locations must be close to sea as well as airports to be effective and supply chain infrastructure must have shipping routes and capacity to avoid congestion,

The full summary report of the ESUPS meetings can be found [here](#).



Leading Edge Programme

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week
5 - 9 February 2018

Global Alliance for Urban Crises

As part of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week held in Geneva in February 2018, IMPACT Initiatives and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises hosted - in partnership with OCHA, the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS), the Global Shelter Cluster and CANADEM, a session titled: Cities in Crises: Multi-stakeholder Coordination in Urban response. Panellists shared experiences, insights, challenges and lessons of engaging with diverse actors in urban contexts – including international and national and humanitarian and development actors, stressing the need for international actors to engage with and support city and municipal authorities.

The session explored opportunities for the humanitarian sector to become more fit-for-purpose in urban crises response, and shared experiences from different organizations and contexts in urban contexts.

The full summary report is available [here](#).

Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)

The Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) is a State-led initiative that was launched during the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 as a follow-up to the Nansen Initiative. It works towards implementing the recommendations of the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda in addressing the protection needs of people displaced by disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.

The PDD has three pillars, the Steering Group, Advisory Committee and Coordination Unit. The Steering Group members are: Australia, Bangladesh (Chair), Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Fiji, France (Vice-Chair), Germany, Kenya, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal, Switzerland and the European Union.

The closed meeting served to consult and inform Steering Group members, including their delegations from capitals, on current and upcoming events of the PDD at the regional and global levels, in a number of relevant policy areas, including humanitarian assistance and on the nexus between migration policy, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, human rights and others.

More information on the PDD, including our engagement at the HNPW 2018, can be accessed on www.disasterdisplacement.org

Communication and Community Engagement Initiative (CCEI)

The Communication and Community Engagement Initiative (CCEI) held a session during HNPW 2018, organized by OCHA, UNICEF, IFRC and The CDAC Network.

Key take-aways from participants include:

- Agencies squabbling over who 'owns' community engagement coordination cuts into precious response time. We need to do this together, and coordinators should be



chosen based upon whoever makes the most sense on the ground.

- Collaborative community engagement approaches should be embedded in, or fully linked to, existing coordination architecture. They should not be ad hoc.
- Proposals for common service approaches mustn't be vague plans to 'do everything'. They must have specific activities that are costed and shared among defined actors.
- Surge capacity should come from diverse sources; but profiles, experience required and capacity should be much more clearly defined, with both coordination and technical expertise improved. This should support, and never replace, local capacity.
- Common community engagement mechanisms take a long time to gain buy-in. They need to be set up ahead of time, and in ongoing emergencies (not just L3s).
- A few committed and resourced agencies making clear contributions will go further faster than a model where consensus from every operational agency is required for every decision.

Agreed next steps include ensuring more predictable funding for community engagement; strengthening surge capacity and a more predictable role for service providers.

The full report of the event can be found [here](#).

Inter-Network Day Summary

The 2018 Inter-Network Day hosted a series of events aimed at strengthening inter-network collaboration. These included 20 thematic sessions in world-café style, speed networking events and an exhibition area.

The Inter-Network Day also hosted the first Strategy Meeting of the Leading Edge Programme, one year after its official launch at HNPW 2017. Co-chaired by OCHA and DFID, the Strategy Meetings was attended by more than 50 high-level representatives of the networks and partnerships that participated in the HNPW. The objective of the Strategy Meeting was to develop a strategy for sustainable inter-network collaboration.

Participants to the meeting reviewed the analysis of networks conducted by OCHA prior to the event. The analysis revealed that networks have different institutional status and some of them lack sustainable stakeholder support and funding. The analysis also showed that few networks had established relationships with others, and that most networks were not aware of the role and purpose of the other networks. The Focus Task Forces, established as vehicle for inter-network collaboration proved inefficient for that task, while producing tangible outcomes with selected supporters.



The discussions on inter-network collaboration strategy resulted in the following recommendations:

- Criteria for networks to be part of the Leading Edge Programme needs to be defined to ensure that networks are relevant to emergency response and preparedness and capable of meaningful interaction with other networks.
- Inter-network collaboration should be a year-round process that is carried by champions of the networks through virtual or physical interaction according to agreed work plans.
- Joint lessons learned exercises after large scale emergencies might be considered together with a sustainable implementation and monitoring process to ensure measurable outcomes in future responses.
- The Leading Edge Programme Strategy Meeting should be maintained at the annual HNPW to review progress made and revise and adjust the strategy for inter-network collaboration.
- OCHA should continue to act as the Secretariat of the Leading Edge Programme and strengthen its role to follow up on recommendations of the Strategy Meeting and support year-round inter-network collaboration.

Summaries of all thematic sessions held throughout the day are included in the following pages:

What is the promise of open source investigation for conflict settings?

During five interactive sessions different groups of participants discussed what the promise of open source investigation for conflict setting is. With the digital revolution a massive quantity of data is available and therewith an enormous potential for fast analysis and verification of what's happening in conflicts. However, data legitimacy and security issues become more and more essential and ways to simplify data harvesting and visualisation to maximise outreach are to be thought of.

The full outcome report of the sessions can be found [here](#).

How can we ensure both effective community engagement and a quick and efficient response at the same time? The case of environmental assessment in Cox's Bazar

Participants of this session discussed the difficulty and complexity of community engagement and how it can lead to an erosion of community trust. Also, the distinction between community engagement, and consultation or assessments is becoming increasingly blurred. A nuanced understanding of what constitutes "communities" and "engagement" is therefore needed. Community engagement needs to be emphasised during preparedness planning and discussions on the localisation agenda of the Grand Bargain should continue to strongly link to community engagement.

The full summary report is available [here](#).



Cities in crisis: How can we strengthen preparedness and humanitarian response in urban contexts?

At this thematic station, groups discussed how preparedness and humanitarian response in urban contexts can be strengthened. Outcomes included a need for increased understanding of the unique contexts and challenges of response in urban contexts. Hence, a set of recommendations and considerations to better inform urban response needs to be developed. Discussions at country, regional and global levels on the importance of effective, informed and coordinated urban response will be continued and interested participants and organisations engaged in urban response connected to share tools, experiences, challenges and lessons learned.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

What if it were free?! Which common services would help us respond better, cheaper and faster?

Participants of this station were asked to engage in a series of interactive activities, designed to challenge their beliefs and encourage them to think creatively about solutions to help humanitarians respond better, cheaper and faster as a system. Participants were invited to walk in the shoes of people who interact with the humanitarian system to see things from different perspectives. They were also introduced to a concept for a radical new approach to the humanitarian system, based on a networked, digital platform where people affected by crises and first responders

can connect with service providers who can meet their requests based on expertise, proximity, availability and ratings.

The full summary report is available [here](#).

Collaborative feedback mechanisms: Are we ready to truly listen to communities?

What are ways to increase the prevalence of response-wide feedback mechanisms in the field? Conclusions to this question included that common feedback surveys are not Christmas trees that everyone can hang their issues on; 'adding questions' to surveys is not as easy as it seems. Surveys need to be short and concise. Asking 'how will this question improve your program?' is key. Participants also agreed that there will never be the perfect common feedback mechanism. Next steps will therefore include the development of a 'good enough' approach to a common feedback mechanism.

The full outcome report of the sessions can be found [here](#).

How can a coordinated disaster waste management response alleviate human suffering and speed up recovery?

The sessions revealed that there is a need to address disaster waste and the management of the same in broader terms to a more integrated, environmentally sound and preparedness-recovery based approach. At the same time, disaster waste/debris/rubble can be used as a resource for recovery. Moreover, disaster waste management needs to be institutionalised! It is an inter-sectorial and



multi-cluster issue that needs to be addressed as such and coordinated and therefore needs to be institutionalised both within the humanitarian architecture and at the country level.

The full summary report is available [here](#).

Preparedness Financing – why can't we get it right?

The result of the use of a 'pigeonhole' word cloud online format showed that forecast based financing gained most attention among participants. Many ideas were discussed to fund preparedness generally, some of which could be examined at the country level (including preparedness successes and failures more systematically in After Action Reviews; developing preparedness bonds; private sector support; tapping regional pooled funds; etc.) or pursued at the global level (developing legal instruments for minimum preparedness; a specific CERF window; better narratives and media coverage; measuring social as well as financial returns on investment in preparedness; etc.).

A more detailed summary of the sessions can be found [here](#).

Developing an Emergency Supply Pre-positioning Strategy (ESUPS) to reduce gaps and overlaps in emergency preparedness

Participants of this thematic station agreed that collaboration among stakeholders and building trust is the key and that a process of accountability to better make procurement decisions and to speed up emergency response is needed. They also discussed models and metrics analysis, the strengthening of country and sub regional

structures, global stocks locations, branding issues and lack of standardization, as well as how local information should define global action, not the other way around.

The full summary report is available [here](#).

Minimum standards in the real world: Why don't they get used in practice?

Humanitarian standards represent compiled experience, practice, evidence, and knowledge in the sector. But what can unlock using standards in practice? Participants of this station acknowledged that humanitarian standards guide preparedness, planning, prioritisation, monitoring, coordination and promote accountability of humanitarian action and dignity of affected populations. At the same time, they represent guidelines which need to be contextualized and adapted to local realities. Generated through active stakeholder's engagement and extended consultation processes, they need to be locally owned by their users and beneficiaries. If systematically embed in humanitarian organisations strategies they can make an enormous difference in providing quality humanitarian assistance.

A more detailed summary of the events can be found [here](#).

Preventing and addressing disaster displacement

Participants to this session agreed on the need for better understanding of and information on the scope and magnitude of disaster displacement both internally and across borders. More data and knowledge on disaster displacement as well as policy and



protection frameworks, and operational tools, especially for transnational collaboration and preparedness, are needed. States and other stakeholders must undertake domestic efforts and strengthen international cooperation to reinforce data collection and analysis on disaster displacement, and integrate effective measures into domestic, sub-regional and regional disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation laws, policies and strategies.

The full summary report is available [here](#).

How can conflict analysis inform decision-making and sustaining peace?

The group discussions revealed that conflict analysis is not only about technical processes and data, but also about substance to pressure on valid decision-making, with the knowledge of root causes. It needs to be embed in people's thinking when getting together to determine pre-deployment planning to humanitarian programming, without over-emphasizing conflict sensibility. The current energy around the New Way of Working and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus will therefore be used to set up a Community of Practice/Network on Conflict Analysis that facilitates decision-making at the top level and contribute to sharing analysis across communities and at the strategic-level.

The full outcome report of the sessions can be found [here](#).

What can Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, and related technologies offer to the disaster response and humanitarian communities?

The session about AR, VR, and related technologies and what they can offer to disaster response and humanitarian communities concluded that VR is most suited for pre-deployment training and headquarters-level visualization of humanitarian situations while AR is more applicable for field-deployed staff to understand locations of key areas. However, resources (time and finances) pose significant challenges to their implementation. The discussion revealed that more information about the use and humanitarian related content needs to be shared and its labour pool increased.

A more detailed summary of the sessions can be found [here](#).

How can networks/organizations of persons with disabilities contribute to humanitarian action?

The Thematic Station was an opportunity to challenge participants from other networks to reflect on how to include persons with disabilities in their work. Major points discussed included the need to make available appropriate information sources and guidance; to take into account particularly underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities (e.g. persons with psychosocial problems or children with disabilities), and what can be done to better include organizations and networks of persons with disabilities in the various phases of humanitarian action.

The full outcome report of the sessions can be found [here](#).



From Law to Action: Saving Lives through Disaster Laws

This session focused on the development of a Checklist on Law and Preparedness and Response which will include key legal issues to consider when it comes to domestic preparedness and response, and how addressing these can improve the lives of disaster-affected and at-risk communities. The feedback received in five 'mini consultations' on the role of law and policy in the regulation and management of emergency medical teams; cash transfer programming; forecast-based financing; logistics and coordination; and gender, protection and SGBV; will be included in the new checklist, which will be developed by IFRC in 2018.

The full summary report is available [here](#).

Changing airports from humanitarian response bottlenecks to effective logistics hubs

The group discussions revealed that there is a need for a prioritization system for all aircraft filing flight plans to avoid congestion and delays which cause increased cost and frustration for rescue teams. Relief logistics is uncoordinated and mostly organised by knowledgeable amateurs. Involving the regulators (ICAO) could radically improve the situation by improving the information available which should lead to better decision making. Donors and shippers need to improve their processes so only appropriate, well packaged and SPHERE standard materials are shipped to disaster zones.

A next step will be to set up a Task Force to look at information management, current regulations, and humanitarian supply chain.

A more detailed summary of the sessions can be found [here](#).

Periphery of Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

Participants in the five rotating groups explored the newest training developments to boost understanding of humanitarian action through access, protection, humanitarian civil-military coordination and security. All agreed that the operational linkages between these have become increasingly apparent with the most recent emergencies in the Central African Republic, Iraq or Yemen. Although the functions may overlap, the groups agreed that the skillsets for each of these four functions are not interchangeable. While it is critical to build dedicated capacities in each of these functions, a shared understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities as well as respective comparative advantages is of the greatest importance.

The full summary report is available [here](#).

Putting the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) into practice: challenges & opportunities for different users

Participants of these sessions concluded that the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) is a universal, yet flexible tool, and that different actors apply the CHS in different ways. Local actors are increasingly adopting and applying the CHS, and therefore contributing to the localisation agenda by enhancing access of national and local partners to information about the CHS and support in applying the standard and its verification mechanisms. Nevertheless, there is a need to build knowledge around the CHS and how it can be used to promote quality and accountability in different contexts. New users



Leading Edge Programme

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week
5 - 9 February 2018

around the globe need to be trained and its application has to be continuously tested in different situations.

The full outcome report of the sessions can be found [here](#).

Request, Accept, Refuse: How can we improve activation of international response in sudden-onset emergencies

Participants agreed on the need to improve coordination between the operational and the political levels of the response. The influx of unwanted and unwarranted people and items once a request is issued and the pressure to respond (which may be political or to show 'return on investment' into readiness) can lead to non-issuance of a request even when the emergency exceeds national response capacity. Therefore, existing networks and "trusted brokers" need to be used to bridge the gap between the national disaster management authorities and Ministries of Foreign Affairs and to obtain specific, required assistance. There is a need to collectively work towards shifting the communications narrative from celebrating foreign heroes to a focus on local and national response.

A more detailed summary of the sessions can be found [here](#).

HNPW 2018 - Behind the scenes

HNPW is organized by OCHA's Emergency Response Support Branch (ERSB), in close collaboration with the UK's Department for International Development and funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The Leading Edge Programme website is powered by the Virtual OSOCC, an on-line collaboration tool for information exchange.

Updates about the networks and partnerships that participated in the event, as well as information about upcoming events, will be made available at <http://leading-edge-programme.org>