EVENT SUMMARY

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW)
4-8 February 2019

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The fifth Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) was held from 4 to 8 February 2019 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. Organised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and hosted by the Swiss Government, the event has established itself as an institution within the 'humanitarian capital'.

HNPW is the flagship event of the Leading Edge Programme, a year-round collaborative platform for humanitarian expert networks and partnerships with the aim of developing sustainable solutions to recurring, cross-cutting issues in emergency preparedness and response. Launched in February 2017 and replacing the Consultative Group for Emergency Preparedness and Response (CG), the LEP acts as a global community of practice and offers a unique space for inter-network collaboration by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders united by common goals to improve effectiveness in crisis preparedness and response.

In a 47% increase from the previous year, HNPW 2019 was attended by close to 2,200 participants from 150 Member States and some 400 organisations and private sector. Participants came from UN agencies, funds and programs, Governments, military and civil protection, NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, private sector and academia. With 30 networks and partnerships involved, more than 130 events took place throughout the week including briefing sessions, annual network and partnership consultations, technical meetings and cross-network meetings. Outside sessions, attendees were also able to visit the 25 different stands in the Exhibition Area and take part in Speed-Networking.

The third iteration of the Inter-Network Day took place on Wednesday 6 February. Attended by 1,500 participants, this full-day event offered 30 cross-network sessions co-organized by several organisations and networks on academia and humanitarian action, private sector engagement and the New Way of Working, among others. Attended by several high-level representatives, the day's Opening and Closing Ceremonies were an opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing the humanitarian sector and the need for increased, year-round collaboration and networking between different actors. United Nations Geneva Director-General Michael Møller, Assistant to the Secretary General and Deputy Emergency Coordinator Ursula Mueller and Head of Swiss Humanitarian Aid at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Manuel Bessler were among the guest speakers.

HNPW 2020 is expected to take place from 3-7 February 2020 at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG). More information will be available at www.hnpw.org

Geneva, April 2019

Summary of Networks and Partnerships Annual Meetings & Consultations

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.

Capacity for Disaster Reduction initative (CADRi)

The CADRi Partnership convened an inter-active dialogue on the application of innovation to strengthen preparedness capacities for diaster response. IOM, IFRC and others introduced new apps, technologies and softwares, such as the "WhatNow" Service and the "MigApp". Participants discussed whether advances in technology, which make information on risk more accessible to decision makers and the general population, have really translated into more empowered communities. One major recommendation was to institutionalize more robust monitoring systems on the actual impact of investment in innovation at community level.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Communication & Community Engagement Initiative (CCEI)

During the CCEI session "From Words to Action", a special issue of the Humanitarian Practice Network's Humanitarian Exchange Magazine on Communication and Community Engagement, co-edited by CCEI, was launched. Also launched was the CDAC Network's practical "How to" guide to planning and implementing CCE in humanitarian action. Participants further discussed progress

and limitations on the adoption and integration of CCE principles and approaches and better accountability to affected populations. Next steps include:

- ➢ Developping a proposal and roadmap for CCEI's future as part of humanitarian 'architecture'.
- ➢ Continuing to prioritise and strengthen system-wide, collective approaches to community engagement and accountability at country level.
- ➢ Further documenting and sharing good practices by building on the Humanitarian Exchange papers.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Conflict Analysis Network (CAN)

Throughout the week, CAN held several sessions including a roundtable and an annual network meeting. Participants discussed the need to bridge existing structural, organizational, and geographical barriers to connect decision-makers and analysts in order to adapt humanitarian response to the unique context of conflict settings. Next steps include:

- ➢ Establish an Advisory Group to drive forward the CAN Action Plan (2019-2021) and appoint Advisory Champions.
- ➢ Allow 'consortium analysis' to maintain institutional knowledge and collective expertise.
- ➢ Connect high-quality analysis with decision-makers and move focus away from compliance and onto enabling current and future interventions.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Connecting Business Initiative (CBi)

The CBi Annual Event was structured around two thematic sessions – one that explored enabling policy environments for public-private collaboration and one that focused on private sector engagement in manmade disasters. Their collective outcomes included:

➢ Following opening remarks and presentations, an interactive, high-level panel discussion highlighted the wide range of policies on public-private collaboration that have been applied not only in humanitarian action but also disaster resilience in the international and national contexts.

➢ The discussion also underlined the need for both government and the private sector to "speak the same language", "bring entities together", "build relationships and alliances ahead of time", and "engage at various levels of national and local governance" through effecting enabling policies.

➢ In the second session, a call to action and opening remarks were followed by another interactive, high-level panel discussion explored why and how the private sector has collectively become an important asset in addressing manmade disasters, what has been learned from previous experiences and what can be done to further enable private sector engagement in challenging operating environments.

➢ Participants suggested that any private sector intervention would have to address both the "reward" (opportunity) and "risk" of engagement.

Consultivate Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (CMCoord)

The CMCoord Annual Plenary was the occasion for the Consultative Group Chair to endorse the launch of the Recommended Practices for Effective Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination of Foreign Military Assets in Natural and Man-Made Disasters, and, of the UN-CMCoord Field Handbook V2. As well as field updates, the session also involved a discussion on the 2018/19 UN CMCoord Field Survey Results presented by OCHA CMCS. Next steps include:

➢ CMCS and OCHA partners will work on setting up guidance on NSAG interactions.

➢ CMCS and ERSB will plan a new CMCoord training package.

➢ CMCS will refresh and lead a Community of Practice to build a peer-to-peer platform for sharing CMCoord good practice and lessons learned.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

During a thematic session entitled "Practical Steps to Improve Fighter and Combatant Behaviour", participants discussed current tools and resources available for improving humanitarian relations with militaries and non-state armed groups, including contributions from ICRC, NATO and Geneva Call. The discussion's outcomes were:

➢ International Humanitarian Law remains a key component in regulating behavior during armed conflict; different approaches are available to foster respect for IHL.

> Considering the limitations of IHL with certain actors, more should be done to explore informal and formal alternatives.
> OCHA will continue to liaise with key stakeholders and build research and analysis on respect for the rules of war.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) initiative

The EMT Strategic Advisory Group took note of the reports by all six regions on the implementation of the EMT initiative across the world. It also acknowledged the significant progress made in technical standard setting in specialty areas, and the upcoming wide consultation process on the ongoing update of the "Blue Book" (Classification and minimum standards for Emergency Medical Teams) and the drafting of the "Red Book" (guidance document for medical teams preparing for and responding to armed conflict and complex emergencies). Next steps include:

> Close collaboration between WHO and EMT on firming up the concept of the global health emergency corps.
> An EMT global meeting (12-14 June 2019) as endorsed by the SAG.
> Finalisation of the Blue Book and Red Book.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Emergency Supply Prepositioning Strategy (ESUPS)

After piloting ESUPS in the Philippines and Vanuatu, participants discussed and agreed as to the next countries of engagement for ESUPS to be Nepal, Indonesia and Samoa. Central America and the Caribbean's will be the new region of engagement.

Participants also agreed that the data analysis Model & metrics tool needs to be strengthened to include other important parameters related to the pre-positioning decision-making process. In addition, adjustments to the PALM platform, ESUPS' the data collection tool, are required. Next steps include:

> Finalise integration of two variables (replenishement and absorbtion capacities) into the Model & Metrics tool and identify ways to « quantify » the private sector capabilities into countries to include into the model. A first step will be to liaise with the Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) network.
> Identify and engage discussions with academics and partners to conduct researches aimed at quantifying the added-value of sharing stock information, loan-borrowing, joint procurement and limiting branding.
> Collect and compile stockpile mapping functionality requirements from ESUPS partners to feed into the PALM phase 2 development consultation by the GLC.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Environment and Humanitarian Action Network (EHAN)

This meeting was the opportunity to launch the Environment and Humanitarian Action Connect (EHA Connect) toolkit, which was agreed to be promoted as a one-stop-shop for tools and resources on environment and humanitarian action. Participants also discussed opportunities to engage in environmental activities using Sphere

Shelter and Settlement standard 7 on Environmental sustainability and agreed to collaborate on assessing and mitigating potential negative impacts of humanitarian packaging. Next steps include:

➢ The Joint Environment Unit sharing its communications package on EHA Connect with network members.
➢ Collaborating on packaging in humanitarian action.
➢ Continue the EHA Network formalization process.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Focus Task Force on Airport Efficiency

During this all-day session, participants agreed upon a prior permission concept for incoming relief flights; identified key stakeholders in the process, including the NDMA of the disaster affected countries, Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) and military defence attachés. Existing conventions and guidelines, information sharing tools and mechanisms were reviewed and discussed, with gaps and the need for various adaptations identified. Next steps include:

➢ Reviezing existing aviation guidelines and regulatory frameworks to identify and fill gaps.
➢ Enabling OCHA and its CMCoord section to approach military attachés to liaise with national authorities, brief partners and communicate priorities to militaries in an emergency.
➢ Reviewing and investigating the benefits of relevant information tools and their integration into a a coherent information management system.

Fore a more detailed summary, click here.

Global Alliance for Urban Crises (GAUC)

GAUC presented its four new technical resources on: urban profiling for better responses to humanitarian crises; strengthening engagement between local governments and humanitarian and development actors; urban displacement from different perspective, an overview of approaches; and building urban resilience in the face of crisis. Two related partner resources were also introduced: the Urban Competency Framework and the Good Practice Review. Participants were able to discuss the challenges and opportunities of urban crises; next stpes include:

➢ Continued dissemination and furthering of these technical resources among humanitarian actors, local authorities and the built environment.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Global Crisis Centre Network (GCCN)

The GCCN Annual Meeting confirmed the need for a checklist of reliable information products to be automatically made available during the first disaster phase. Participants proposed that regional organisations and/or the affected country be responsible for the alert and activation of GCCN during disasters, and agreed to test GCCN activiation with selected stakeholders in real emergencies. Next steps include:

- Revising the alerting procedures to delegate responsibilities to regional organisations and affected countries.
- Continuing to train and test revised GCCN activation procedures during 2019 large scale exercises.
- Activating the GCCN during real emergencies with selected stakeholders.

The GCCN workshop identified several information products to be included in the GCCN catalogue. Participants' decisions were based on several criteria, including a focus on decision needs, being "fit for purpose" and inclusion of meta-data. Next steps include:

- Following up with information providers to identifying existing products and gaps and agree on meta-data.
- Compiling relevant products into a reference checklist during disaster response.
- Introducing and testing information products during GCCN exercises.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

During the GDACS Advisory Group meeting, GDACS Chairmanship was transferred from Armenia to EC/JRC. The meeting introduced new, improved algorithms for alerts and impact estimations as well as a new website design. GDACS engaged with several other HNPW networks and identified areas for concrete collaboration. Next steps include:

- Exploring the integration of airport analysis in GDACS alerts and VOSOCC disaster discussions.
- Collaborating with WMO on improved algorithms for alerts and impact estimation in weather-related disasters.
- Adding automatic GDACS alerts and impact estimations to VOSOCC exercise discussions.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Global Logistics Cluster Strategic Advisory Group

The SAG members discussed changes to the Global Cluster Coordinator's role and reviewed the SAG Terms of Recerence. The next Global Meeting will take place from 9 to 11 April in Dubai. The focus of the meeting lies on access. Service provision, preparedness and strategy implementation will also be addressed. Next steps include:
- Revision of SAG Terms of Recerence and compilation of Working Group Terms of Reference.
- Production of visual aid outlining the reporting mechanisms available for partners in the field.
- Finalization of Sercive Provision Document.

Humanitarian to Humanitarian (H2H) Network

The H2H General Assembly provided updates on the last year's progress and gathered participants' expectations concerning the added value of the network. Several other sessions gathered feedback on:

- Members' vision of the network (membership criteria, identity, values, short and long-term governance).
- Members, end users and potential members' thoughts on the barriers for delivering services to end users, the kinds of services most needed by the latter and how they wish to access them.
- Members' options for possible funding mechanisms (e.g. how a response would be triggered, how services would be chosen, selection processes for organisations, etc.)

The feedback will be formalized and inputted into the network's build workplan. A more detailed summary can be found here.

Importation and Customs Clearance Together! (IMPACCT) Working Group

During the Expert Meeting, participants shared insights on existing international conventions and instruments relevant to the importation of relief consignments in times of disaster. Opportunities for closer collaboration with ITU were identified, while WCO shared lessons learned from the C-RED project. Next steps include:

- Continuing to engage with WCO and contribute to the review process of the Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC).
- Identifying high risk and/or priority Member States and support them in drafting SOPs for importing emergency relief consignments.
- Planning further simulation exercises on cross-border management with the humanitarian community, government entities and Customs.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

IMPACCT's Annual Meeting allowed participants to discuss the challenges related to obtaining required authorisations prior to customs clearance. A number of current initiatives to reduce bottlenecks in the importation of humanitarian goods, their successes and lessons learned were also shared. Next steps include:

- Convening a volunteer working group to agree on a standardised set of priority relief shipment HS codes list to be submitted to WCO.
- Agreeing and executing the implementation plan for ASYREC.
- Putting into place the 2019 IMPACCT Action Plan according to priorities identified by the working group.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action

The "Group of Friends" of interested Member States supporting the Charter on Inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action was reinvigorated. A growing political interest was stated. However, change in humanitarian practices remains essential, especially related to mental health issues. The progress made must now be translated into action. Next steps include:

- A validation workshop in April 2019 to finalize the IASC guidelines on inclusive humanitarian action.
- A system-wide action plan and accountability framework (SWAP) will be put in place later this year to encourage

cooperation, common understanding and coordination between governments, humanitarian and development organizations, and organizations of persons with diabilities.

➢ Work on disaggregated disability data.

Fore a more detailed summary, click here.

International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP)

Participants in IHP's Annual Meeting recognised the lack of an overview of existing networks, which does not support cross-organisational cooperation. Rather than one organisation seeking to achieve complete humanitarian coverage, it would be more efficient for organisations with complimentary functions to connect and collaborate, as well as improving their mobilisation of local resources. The discussion's outcome was:

➢ Using the increased awareness and understanding stemming from the session, to promote individual initiatives by participating organisations and persons.

Fore a more detailed summary, click here.

International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)

INSARAG held its Steering Group Meeting, which was attended by all three INSARAG Regional Chairs, Troikas and members from Classified teams. Participants endorsed the new Light Classification Checklist and discussed possible collaborations with new partner representatives from UNESCO and INTERPOL. A Letter of Intent by INSARAG and the Organisation of American Firefighters was signed, and the following next steps agreed upon:

➢ Push for active member participation at regional, team leader and working group meetings in 2019.
➢ Working groups and INSARAG Secretariat to discuss and decide on IEC/R representation and potential team downsizing.
➢ Prepare and run consultations for the 3rd global meeting in 2020, as well as implement the decisions and developments into the 2020-2025 INSARAG Strategic Plan.

A more detailed summary can be found here.

Private Sector Partnerships (PSP)

PSP organised a welcome and orientation session to introduce private sector participants to the HNPW, highlighting key trends in the humanitarian and development space, discussing UN-business partnerships and providing an overview of the main program.

In another session, a panel of experts from the humanitarian and private sectors agreed that any joint engagement required alignment on humanitarian principles. Different clusters' practices for private sector partnerships were discussed, as well as the private sector's difficulties when engaging with the humanitarian system and examples of successful integrations. Next steps include:

- Promoting discussions of potential collaboration prior to the disaster or emergency's onsent, as part of prevention activities and with a focus on local capacity.
- Creating a more coordinated approach and better understanding of humanitarian contexts and private sector involvement for the latter.
- Developping a common platform and tools that will support Humanitarian Coordinators.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

Strategic Advisory Board on Environmental Emergencies (SAGEE)

During the SAGEE meetings, members agreed to contribute to a side-event at the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, convene a Strategic Forum on Environment and Emergencies and welcome additional engagement of the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit on climate change. Their next steps include:

- Developing a concept note for the ECOSOC HAS side event on environmental sustainabilty and humanitarian action.
- Initiating the planning process for the Environment and Emergencies Strategic Forum.
- Engaging with the JEU's 25th anniversary campaign.

A more detailed summary can be found here.

Simulation and Training Network (STN)

The STN confirmed the establishment of a Pre-exercise training Working Group due to the importance of such sessions in large-scale simulation exercises, and agreed on the translation of a remote learning module from Spanish into English for wider sharing. Next steps include:

- Developing and advancing results in connection with 2018 exercises.
- Introducing and testing remote learning modules during UK Simex Series in May 2019.

The STN Steering Group agreed on creating a new STN workstream on exercise evaluation to develop a standard methodology; developpping an "open-source" checklist for exercise preparation; and using 2019 large scale disaster exercises to advance all STN workstreams. Next steps include:

- Updating the STN Knowledge Base with the UK Simex Series exercise objectives before May 2019.
- Establishing the pilot "open-source" checklist for exercise preparation using NATO/EARDCC Serbia as a case study.
- Ensuring wide engagement to advance the plan of action and monitor progress.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

UNDAC's Advisory Board approved the strategic direction and 2018-2021 Strategy for the network and recommended several measures to improve involvement of UNDAC members in the network. It also advised OCHA to provide member country focal points with more detailed guidance on contractual and administrative issues related to the UNDAC membership and roster management. Next steps include:

➢ Sharing with the Advisory Board a detailed proposal for Member States support for a common approach to capacity strengthening and training in crisis coordination for national emergency management organisations.
➢ Developping a proposal to strengthen governance of and communication for the Advsory Board.
➢ Conducting a profiling exercise of the UNDAC roster as well as developing tools and procedures to evaluate the impact of UNDAC missions.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

University Surge Support Group (USSG)

The USSG Network Meeting gathered humanitarian partners, members of the academic community and private organisations to discuss the network's opportunities and challenges. Three pillars of potential activities were identified: knowledge creating through joint research projects; knowledge sharing through capacity building, including education; and knowledge operationalisation in humanitarian operations. During the Inter-Network Day, participating students also presented their research as related to ALNAP's 2018

State of the Humanitarian System report, as well as attending other network sessions. Next steps include:

➢ Using the input collected during HNPW, the formal establishment of the USSG network in consultation with partners.
➢ Developing initial projects relating to the three USSG pillars, in collaboration with other networks.
➢ Improving connection and alignment between academic research and humanitarian aid through increased relevancy, better expectations management and quality assurance.

For a more detailed summary, click here.

A related session on the "interest of young people and students for international cooperation", aimed at students and recent graduates, was held on Thursday 7 February. Its outcomes:

➢ Confirmed many young professionals' interest in the humanitarian sector.
➢ Raised issues with job profiles including unclear requirements, challenging language skills and matching supply and demand.
➢ Showed information online must be well presented to potential job seekers.

Inter-Network Day Summary

The 2019 Inter-Network Day was centred around cross-network collaboration and participation from a variety of different actors involved in humanitarian action. During the Opening Session, keynote speakers and a presentation on ALNAP's 2018 State of the Humanitarian System report were followed by a networking exercise where participants voted for what they considered to be the humanitarian sector's biggest challenges. The results of this poll were then used in the Closing Session to start a panel discussion on the next steps to solving these issues.

The day was devoted to the 30 thematic, interactive sessions which took place in the CICG. These sessions, divided into workstreams, are summarized below:

Engaging the Private Sector

Models to inspire effective humanitarian collaboration and Energising collaboration on joint humanitarian solutions

Two sessions on humanitarian-private sector collaboration ran consecutively. They examined the barriers to this collaboration, including the small, medium and local visibility gap; the culture and trust gap; and the business integration gap. Participants came to the following outcomes:

- ➢ Program Sponsors can intentionally engage with diverse groups in the public and private sectors, especially in local communities.

- ➢ Sponsors promote tools and practices to help collaboration e.g. embracing test and fail, sharing ideas and appropriate IP protection.
- ➢ Collaborators should focus on long term strategies to facilitate and maintain private sector engagement
- ➢ Local government and state sponsors can bring in relevant private sector actors and support their humanitarian connections.
- ➢ Two-part strategies which involve both fast action and long-term teamwork are the preferred way of collaborating.

A more detailed summary is available here.

Environmental Sustainability

Improving humanitarian outcomes by mapping and managing environmental risks

This session discussed how environmental and climate date saves lives and livelihoods, as well as how collaboration between humanitarian and environmental actors leads to a better reponse. Participants were introduced to tools like MapX and NEAT+ for quick, quality environmental information for humanitarian action. Next steps include:

- ➢ Opening NEAT+ to testing and piloting in multiple locations in 2019.
- ➢ Resources on environmental data in humanitarian action will be shared through the EHA Connect platform

A more detailed summary is available here.

Sustainable Solutions for Refugees and Migrants

During this interactive session, participants discussed the challenges and opportunities of implementing sustainable energy, water, and waste management solutions in displacement settings. An exercise fostered dialogue on long-term, programmatic solutions on these topics and identified concrete areas where support was needed. Next steps include:

- ➢ Participants joining existing practitioners' networks on energy and environment in humanitarian action.
- ➢ Inviting practitioners to join the GPA Network
- ➢ Sharing existing resources on the EHA Connect platform.

A more detailed summary is available here.

Climate Change and humanitarian action

This session explored the ways in which climate change and humanitarian crises mutually affect one another. Participants discussed the increasing need for strong preventive action, as well as greater coordination between humanitarian and development actors to respond to today's environmental challenges. Next steps include:

- ➢ Increased advocacy efforts to include climate change considerations into humanitarian agendas and programming.
- ➢ Stronger financial and human resource investments into predictive analysis and preventive action.

- ➢ Joint programming between development and humanitarian actors to address the consequences of climate change.

A more detailed summary is available here.

New Ways of Working

Implementing the Agenda for Humanity: tracking progress since the World Humanitarian Summit

In this session, participants discussed the Agenda for Humanity's impact in reducing vulnerability through education in crises, localization, respect for IHL, etc. Another topic broached was the various steps needed in localisation beyond funding e.g. engaging with affected communities, increasing decision-making at operational level, promoting a contextualized response, among other. Next steps include:

- ➢ Continued leadership from donors and international organizations, as well as advocacy from stakeholders.
- ➢ Monitoring progress on implementing the Agenda for Humanity by reporting through the Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformations (PACT).

A more detailed summary is available here.

What does cash do? Measuring outcomes and impact of cash assistance

Panelists of the session "What does cash do?" disagreed when discussing the best collective approach to understand the outcomes and impact of multipurpose cash assistance. Next steps include:

- USAID and others are leading work to agree on common indicators to better measure effects of multipurpose cash assistance (inputs are welcome here).
- Develop new ways of measuring effectiveness through deeper involvement of affected populations and the use of behavioural economics.
- Undertake more quality research on household expenditure to measure long-term effects.

A more detailed summary is available here.

Adapting to urban contexts: Strengthening coordination in urban crises

Participants in this session gained an increased understanding on current approaches and practices in urban humanitarian coordination. They were invited to share their experiences of area based, inter-sector coordination in urban areas and how this approach complements a sector-led humanitarian system. Next steps include:

- Continuing to engage with humanitarian and development actors, local authorities and the private sector to strengthen engagement and coordination in urban crises.

- Further refining and testing the IASC Urban Coordination Guidance note by building on previous work of the IASC Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas.

A more detailed summary is available here.

Listen and include!

Don't let PSEA stand alone

Participants discussed the importance of integrating Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) into humanitarian work and global accountability efforts. They explored examples of good practices for creating organisational culture and behaviour changes, as well as ways to measure progress in PSEA. Next steps include:

- Encouraging organisations to use the CHS PSEA index and IASC MoS PSEA as complimentary tools.
- Creating an environment of trust where people feel safe to report.
- Using verification against the CHS to ensure continuous improvement in the sector.

A more detailed summary is available here.

Moving forward on gender equality and women's participation

This session provided a clear consensus on recommendations to UN OCHA and humanitarian leadership for action and increased

accountability for gender equality, as well as recommendations to the IASC Principles for advancing gender equality in humanitarian action and to donors and humanitarian actors for improved performance on gender equality programming. Next steps include:

➢ Circulating and following up recommendations with OCHA and IASC management and leadership.
➢ Convening follow-up meetings to monitor progress on gender equality in humanitarian settings.

Collective Action

Humanitarian Network Support: Partnering to enable responders and affected communities to meet tomorrow's challenges

This session brought together three different partnership models operating at a global, national and local level. Groups discussed the opportunities and challenges of intra and inter-network collaboration; their main recommendations were:

➢ OCHA should map out an online overview of existing networks that would helps organisations identify potential partners.
➢ Guidelines in multiple languages (including local ones) should be made available to spontaneous volunteer groups after disasters, as well as indications on how to connect with wider networks and coordination mechanisms.
➢ Technology and social media could be used to build platforms for collaboration and identify potential partners.

➢ Segments within networks must be identified and assigned different focuses to provide clarity on what expertise each network has highlighted, and which actors are involved.
➢ Local capacities should be maximised by shifting funding structures from transactional to long-term partnerships; a code of conduct between INGOs and local NGOs should be established by the latter; capacity building traing should be made available locally; and local activities and narratives need to be reported and expanded on.

A coordinated humanitarian future

Multi-stakeholder dynamics in sudden onset disasters, escalating emergencies and protracted crises

Participants dicussed international actors' lack of awareness of the complexity of international dynamics in disaster and emergency response, as well as unawareness of the tools, procedures and mechanisms available to address the resulting challenges. The STN Knowledge Base prototype was presented, and the following next steps agreed on:

➢ Tools, mechanisms and procedures relating to multi-stakeholders' interactions will be compiled in the STN Knowledge Base.
➢ The STN Knowledge Base will be shared with stakeholders for feedback and improvement.

A more detailed summary is available here.

The New SCALE-UP Activation Protocols

During this session, participants gained a better understanding of the Scale-Up Activation protocols and their implication on response for UN and NGO humanitarian actors. Following discussions an agreement was reached on the need to guarantee an orderly and resourced transition, either away from humanitarian response or towards long-term support for a protracted crisis. Next steps include:

➢ Further promoting the understanding of and buy-in to the new IASC Scale-Up Activation protocols.

A more detailed summary is available here.

Rising to the challenge

What is the impact of lengthy processes to import humanitarian aid?

Participants in this session presented a broad range of initial ideas on the benefits of and how to measure the impact of lengthy processes to import humanitarian aid. They also agreed on the benefits of conducting evidence-based analysis to inform decision-making on the various scenarios leading to lengthy importation of aid and its consequences. Next steps include:

➢ The creation of a volunteer working group to formulate a strategy and action plan to tap into existing data resources and plan new evidenced-based analysis to better quantify the impacts of lengthy importation processes.

A more detailed summary is available here.

Evidence-based response – more than a buzzword?

This session allowed for discussion of the role multi-sector needs assessments (MSNAs) play in informing strategic decision-making, when they are part of a coherent, evidence-based aid ecosystem and coupled with other tools. Participants also discussed the need for quality data and better collaboration during assessments, as well as the risks for privacy and efficiency stemming from increased data collection and storage. Next steps include:

➢ Gathering and assessing experiences and lessons learned from the 8 MSNAs of 2018 in order to extract guidelines.
➢ Rolling-out collaborative and coordinated MSNAs according to said guidelines and Grand Bargain.
➢ Contributing to the development and implementation of data protection and accountability tools while mainstreaming MSNAs.

A more detailed summary is available here.

The Future of Emergency Response in Conflict Settings

Participants discussed the need for principled humanitarian action to protect access and humanitarian spaces, the importance of engaging with affected communities to improve perception of medical teams, and the need for more open and honest conversations which include non-traditional actors and representatives from affected nations. Next steps include:

- Planning a wider, more inclusive consultation process to develop the "Red Book" for medical teams in armed conflict and complex emergencies.
- Creating an expert peer review and co-writing group to support, steer and co-author the Red Book's drafting.
- Engaging with other rapid response teams and relevant networks to share experiences and challenges.

A more detailed summary is available [here](#).

Beyond the buzzwords

How do divergent uses of key humanitarian concepts impact operations?

Using CERAH's 2018 survey, participants discussed the factors influencing how definitions, usage, interpretations and understanding of humanitarian terms varied with actors and organisations, and the need for a Humanitarian Encyclopedia project. Next steps include:

- An online database of over 2,500 organisations will be made available before summer 2019.
- The first set of selected concepts will be made available for testing and improvement by the Humanitarian Encyclopedia project's governing bodies.
- Following piloting and revision, these selected concepts will be made available publicly.

A more detailed summary is available [here](#).

SDGs: The elephant in the room?

Participants in this interactive session engaged in discussions relating to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their role in humanitarian work. They concluded that:

- All 17 SDGs are encompassed in most humanitarian crises.
- The humanitarian-development dichotomy is an illusion; both communities use SDGs as guidance for successful, long-term impact when working with affected populations.
- Using SDGs as an accountability tool in fragile environments and settings is an important mechanism to keep governments and other stakeholders accountable.

Effective Financing

Act Early on Early Action

A panel discussion explored key contributing elements to effective early action, namely risk monitoring, anticipatory financing and operational readiness. Participants concluded the following:

- An efficient, anticipatory humanitarian system should respond to shifts in risks, not only in response to crises.
- Early action does not simply mean funds, but collaborative risk analysis; coherent, adaptive and flexible definitions and frameworks; clear forecasting; and better assessments.
- More work must be done to increase trust, confidence and resources in order to build evidence as we operate under uncertainties.

HNPW 2019 - Behind the scenes

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

The Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week is the flagship event of the Leading Edge Programme, a year-round collaborative platform for humanitarian expert networks and partnerships with the aim of developing sustainable solutions to recurring, cross-cutting issues in emergency preparedness and response.

The second Strategic Meeting of the chairs of the operational networks forming the Leading Edge Programme will take place in March 2019 to reflect on developments over the last year, discuss outcomes of HNPW 2019 and the way forward.

Updates about the networks and partnerships that participated in the event, as well as information about upcoming events, will be made available at www.hnpw.org

The Leading Edge Programme and the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week can also be found on social media! Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to receive regular updates about progress made throughout the year:

   Facebook

   Twitter