WORLD
HUMANITARIAN
SUMMIT

REGIONAL CONSULTATION
South and Central Asia
28-30 July 2015

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REGIONAL CONSULTATION
Dushanbe, 28-30 July 2015

FINAL REPORT

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank all of the individuals, organizations and governments who supported the planning, organization and delivery of the World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia and the preparatory stakeholder consultations organized in the lead-up to it. These contributions helped to ensure that this final regional consultation built upon the foundations laid in previous regions, extending the reach of our dialogue and resulting recommendations into new territory.

Special thanks go to the Government of Tajikistan, Aga Khan Development Network / Focus Humanitarian Assistance-Tajikistan and the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe for hosting the regional consultation.

The WHS Regional Steering Group for South and Central Asia
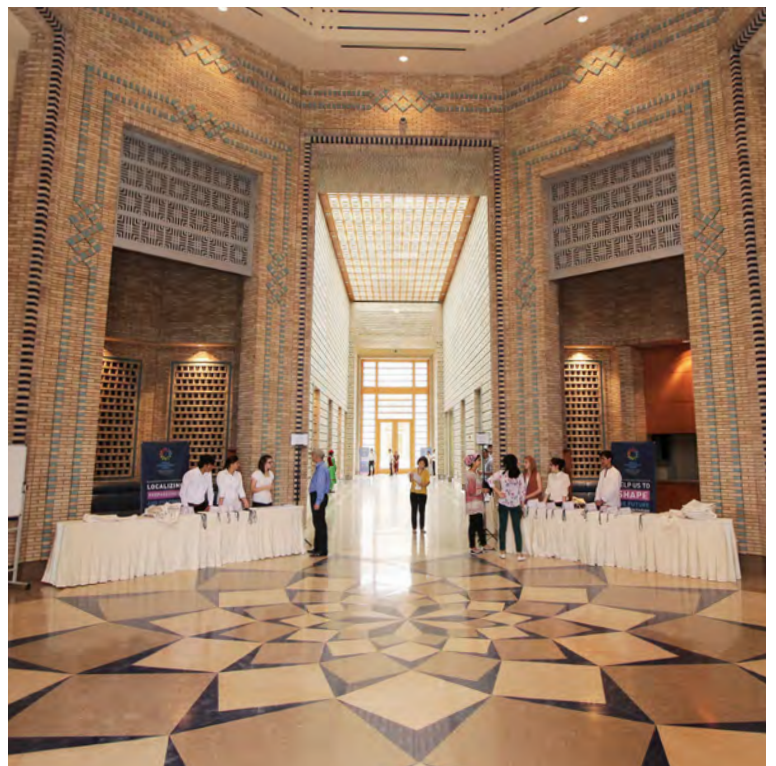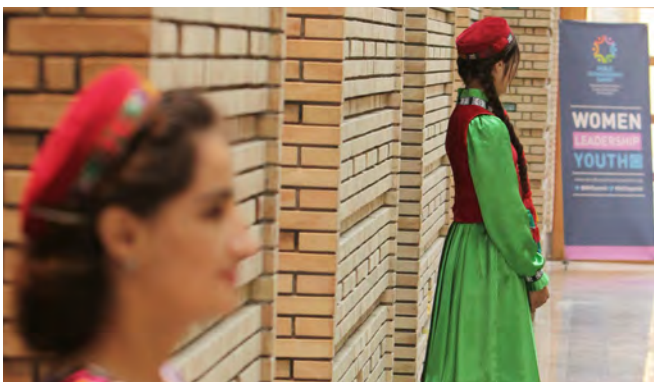
CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Photo credit: IFRC

South and Central Asia Regional Consultation
Dushanbe, 28-30 July 2015

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia was held at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe in the capital of Tajikistan from 28 to 30 July 2015. It was co-hosted by the Government of Tajikistan and the Aga Khan Development Network, and chaired by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. This was the last of eight regional consultations.

In the spirit of the Summit's multi-stakeholder approach, the consultation brought together nearly 200 participants from across the 16 countries covered by the regional consultation[1], representing academia, affected communities, civil society organizations, governments, media, national and international non-governmental organizations, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, private sector, International Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, regional organizations, United Nations (UN) agencies, programmes and funds, youth, and observers from countries that have already hosted or will host World Humanitarian Summit consultations or events. The meeting was preceded by preparatory stakeholder consultations that involved over 7,640 people across the 16 countries. Their views and priorities were presented in the Regional Stakeholder Analysis, which was used as the basis of discussions in Dushanbe.

The consultation recognized the significance of the Summit process in stimulating fresh approaches to long-standing challenges. Building on the recommendations and conclusions of previous consultations and the outcomes of the regional preparatory stakeholder consultations, the discussions emphasized the leadership of UN Member States, working together with other stakeholders where appropriate, and focused on:

- Putting crisis-affected people at the centre of humanitarian action;

- Context-specific and appropriate localization of preparedness and response;

- Development of clearly-articulated frameworks for planning, funding and delivery of humanitarian assistance in different contexts, specifically (i) disaster, (ii) conflict and (iii) protracted crisis.

1. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Photo credit: Amir Jina/UNISDR

The Dushanbe discussions either reiterated or expanded upon a number of themes common to other consultations:

1. The current framework for humanitarian action outlines the respective roles and responsibilities of the various parties, as well as the central role of affected governments, including in managing response operations and triggering requests for or acceptance of international humanitarian assistance.

2. Promoting a global commitment that reiterates the core humanitarian principles, recognizing the rights and needs of those at risk to (i) be made and kept safe and protected, (ii) ask for and receive assistance, and (iii) be enabled to find durable solutions. This requires a whole-of-society approach.

3. Dismantling artificial boundaries between humanitarian and development silos, whether governmental, inter-governmental or non-governmental, in order to place people and the communities in which they live, rather than humanitarian and development institutions, at the centre of our collective endeavours.

4. Making better and more consistent use of existing policies and guidelines to support effective humanitarian action.

5. Placing protection of people caught up in crises – regardless of the type of crisis – at the centre of all humanitarian response operations and activities.

6. Ensuring that governments and other humanitarian stakeholders adopt an inclusive approach that focuses on vulnerable groups in all humanitarian activities, and in a context specific manner.

7. Strengthening the relationship between humanitarian affairs and human rights, as articulated in both international humanitarian and international human rights law. This requires state and non-state actors to uphold international humanitarian law and ensure humanitarian access.

8. Explicitly addressing the increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian situations, including against aid workers, and the related need for providers of humanitarian assistance to integrate measures to mitigate this in both their advocacy and programming work and human resources policies.

9. Systematically documenting and sharing information on local communities' coping mechanisms, best practices and lessons learned to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their preparedness and response.

10. Investing more in understanding the interplay between political, development, human rights, humanitarian and other factors in the preparatory process leading up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit to ensure the Summit delivers substantive change.

The following summary of recommendations from the regional consultation has been prepared by the Chair, in consultation with the WHS South and Central Asia Regional Steering Group. These synthesize proposals from the thematic discussions held on the first and second days of the consultation, and the subsequent stakeholder review on the third day. The summary does not reflect the full range of discussions and proposed recommendations that emerged from the consultation, and therefore should not be considered a consensus document.

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Humanitarian governance structures should be reformed to make the humanitarian system more efficient and effective in practice. Decision-making, leadership and representation in these structures should be equitable for all States and reflect national ownership.

2. Governments, working together with international humanitarian agencies, should encourage and support national and regional NGO networks, particularly in developing countries.

3. The way global humanitarian assistance is researched, calculated and presented should be changed in order to reflect national expenditures, in-kind support and other contributions.

4. Governments, international and national NGOs should work with local CSOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent national societies to strengthen accountability systems where they exist and ensure effective monitoring and reporting on gender equality, women's access to services and assistance, the rights of women and gender based violence takes place during crisis situations.

5. All law enforcement and military bodies should strengthen education and training of their staff on the specific needs of women and children and explain how to respond to these needs. Clear lines of responsibility should be established to ensure that this happens.

6. Governments, humanitarian organizations and donors should allocate sufficient resources to address psychosocial needs. Psychosocial needs should be integrated into standard procedures for community-based participatory assessments and programming, including through training for parents and teachers on children's mental health and peer-to-peer approaches for children and youth.

7. Where appropriate, governments, working together with relevant stakeholders, should cooperate with inter/multi-faith consortia and dialogue forums to support trust building and solidarity, and actively involve them in coordination of preparedness, response and recovery.

8. Linkages and dialogue should be strengthened between disaster and conflict management actors led, where appropriate, by governments, to allow greater cross-fertilization of approaches to risk analysis, preparedness and response.

9. The United Nations Secretary-General's report on the World Humanitarian Summit should reflect the rich dialogue and networking opportunities fostered during the regional consultations and recommend that this be continued through strengthening and diversifying participation in existing humanitarian coordination forums and mechanisms at national, regional and global levels to (i) promote confidence amongst different stakeholders and (ii) serve as a platform for knowledge sharing and enhanced cooperation.

10. Drawing on related global agendas, Member States, the Secretary-General, and all concerned stakeholders should establish a means to periodically review actions taken or progress made on the World Humanitarian Summit recommendations.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN DISASTERS

11. Governments should adopt a whole-of-society approach to disaster preparedness, recognizing the diversity of, and within, communities and the need to work with multiple actors at all levels. Humanitarian organizations should complement government efforts where appropriate.

12. Humanitarian information and messaging should be clearly communicated, tailored for specific audiences and delivered through appropriate mediums, particularly for and with the assistance of partners such as youth, the private sector and media.

13. Academia, the private sector and humanitarian practitioners should work together to build an evidence base that shows return on investments in disaster preparedness, particularly regarding preservation of development gains.

14. Governments should ideally legislate, and at a minimum promote, to ensure sufficient participation of women, including through affirmative measures in leadership and decision making processes during both preparedness and response.

15. Women, children, people with special needs and older persons must be enabled to independently get out of harm's way, with special consideration being taken in preparedness planning for their mobility.

16. Regional agreements should be established between governments regarding protection and social safety nets for disaster- and climate-induced cross-border displacement wherever appropriate.

17. Procedures and organizational structures/mandates should be revised to promote the use of integrated planning frameworks, reflecting that preparedness, response and early recovery are not linear or sequential.

18. Ensure dedicated, predictable and sustainable financing is available for disaster preparedness and early recovery. These funds should be accessible to international and national stakeholders and aligned with national disaster risk management policies. Clear criteria and mechanisms should also be implemented to enable disaster-prone countries to access finance, including via multilateral financial agencies.

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN CONFLICT

19. Promote a global commitment that places the protection of and access to services by affected people at the core of humanitarian, development, and peace-building efforts.

20. Humanitarian and peace-building activities should be complementary where possible, but kept separate where necessary to preserve humanitarian space.

21. Humanitarian funding should be flexible enough to respond to evolving needs in conflict settings, prioritizing outcome-based funding to address communities' own prioritized needs and solutions in consultation, where appropriate, with governments.

22. Enhance the capacity of States and other stakeholders to improve conflict early warning and strengthen links to planning and early action. This will address a recognised gap in current preparedness measures and support the synchronization of emergency response and recovery with development and peace-building efforts.

23. Governments, together with humanitarian, development and peace-building actors, should work to support community-level conflict risk reduction, invest in social capital formation and strengthen local structures. Where appropriate, humanitarian actors should undertake context-sensitive protection work through these community organizations, and not create parallel structures.

24. Humanitarian actors should invest the necessary human and financial resources to develop effective and safe modes for communicating with communities in conflict contexts. These should also focus on improving transparency and accountability on assistance provided.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

25. The IASC should propose, for consultation and agreement with UN Member States, humanitarian organizations that are not part of the IASC, and development partners, definitions of protracted crises (nuanced according to context) and clear operational criteria for systematic and predictable transition from humanitarian action to that of a developmental and/or peace-building nature.

26. Planning, programme and funding instruments should be adapted to the requirements of protracted crises and the related needs of the affected country(ies), e.g. multi-year financing, etc.

27. Launch a global wide-ranging advocacy campaign to help tackle xenophobia surrounding negative associations with refugees.

28. To address the disproportionate degree to which certain countries host refugees, the international community must ensure more equitable sharing by providing support to and resettling people affected by protracted crises. Sustainable return and reintegration remains the most preferred durable solution. Where necessary and appropriate, this should be facilitated, including by enhancing investments in countries of origin to close development gaps that may hinder achievement of this durable solution.

29. Host countries should make arrangements for the issuance of documentation confirming legal status for refugees and internally displaced persons.

30. Support, where appropriate, the self-reliance of refugees and displaced populations by promoting their integration, reintegration or resettlement (as appropriate) through livelihood programmes taking into account the specific needs of affected people, especially women and youth.

31. The international community should support host countries by exploring a basic international social protection package/fund for long-term refugees, including risk-financing mechanisms to cover health insurance, education and vocational training, livelihood grants, and other areas.

32. States should work together to provide a better framework for legal migration in order to reduce risks of human trafficking, making better use of international instruments and organizations and supporting productive workforce development.

33. Governments and their partners should, where possible, provide refugees, IDPs and migrants with basic services, including but not limited to education, health (particularly maternal and child health and psycho-social support), and livelihood and skills development.

34. Where appropriate, humanitarian action should be climate-friendly and should avoid serving as a potential contributor to climate change.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

16 countries

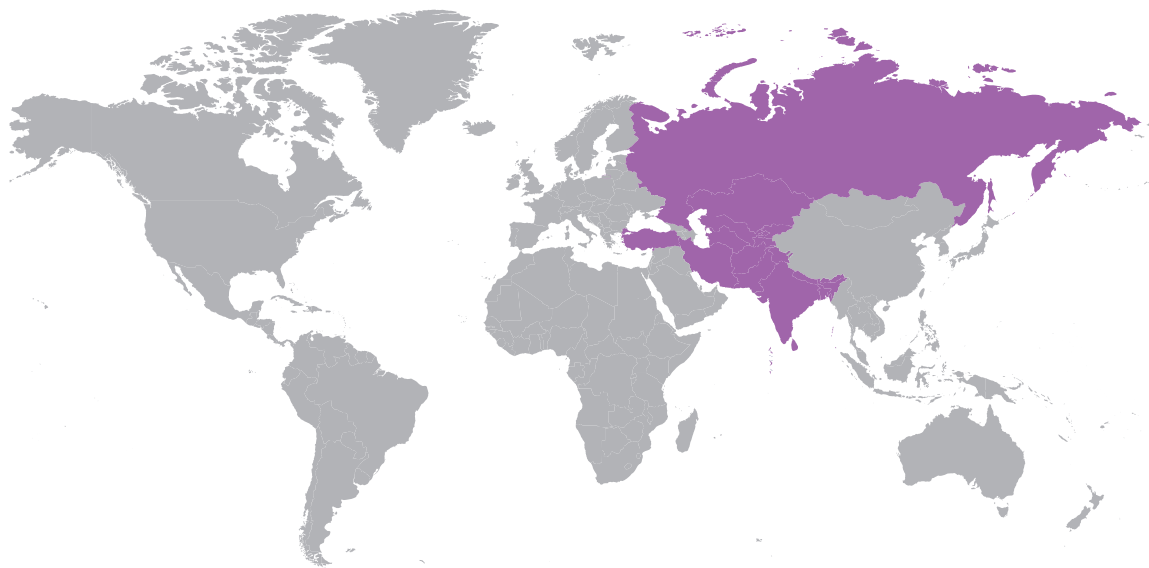**7,600+** people participated

700+ organizations

5,600+ community voices

Afghanistan

Bangladesh

Bhutan

India

Iran

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Maldives

Nepal

Pakistan

Russian Federation

Sri Lanka

Tajikistan

Turkey

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

Planning for the regional consultation was initiated in early 2015, and was jointly managed by the OCHA Regional Offices for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and for the Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine (ROCCA), with support from the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) and the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat (WHSs).

The WHS Regional Steering Group (RSG) for South and Central Asia was stood up in March 2015 *(please see Annex 3 for membership)* and met on a monthly basis in the lead-up to Dushanbe, including face-to-face meetings on 28 April 2015 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and on 17 June 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The WHS Regional Steering Group for South and Central Asia was responsible for:

- advising on the key regional issues and aspects to be prioritized for inclusion in the consultation agenda;

- advising on participants to the regional consultation, and mobilizing their networks to raise awareness and engagement of relevant stakeholders in the lead-up to and at the regional consultation;

- advising on the content and presentation of background documentation, as well as the final report of the regional consultation; and

- developing a network for coordination of efforts in follow-up to the regional consultation.

Between April and June 2015, preparatory stakeholder consultations were initiated in all 16 countries covered by the regional consultation and through stakeholder-specific regional networks. Supported by a common set of background documents, more than 7,600 people participated in preparatory consultations organized at various levels (regional, national and/or sub-national) through focus group discussions – the results of which were captured and transmitted to OCHA in narrative reports – and/or completion of the regional survey. The resulting Regional Stakeholder Analysis, which constituted the primary background material for the South and Central Asia consultation, thus reflected the consolidated priorities and views of those who participated in the preparatory consultations.

The Regional Stakeholder Analysis was prepared by OCHA, under the RSG's guidance and in consultation with the WHSs. It was structured in line with the RSG's decision to frame the discussions at the final regional consultation around areas that were considered as underserved by previous regional consultations. As such, the Stakeholder Analysis featured four main chapters, the first focusing on the overarching issue of localizing preparedness

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

and response, followed by three chapters dedicated to regional views and priorities for humanitarian action in conflict, protracted crisis and disaster settings respectively.
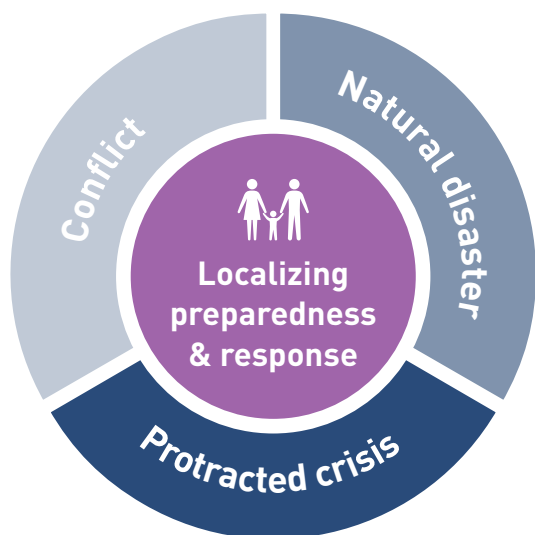
Consistent with the Stakeholder Analysis, the agenda for the regional consultation itself reflected a combination of plenary sessions focused on the overarching theme of localizing preparedness and response and workshop sessions on humanitarian action in the different operational contexts. With regard to the overarching theme of localization, while this clearly emerged as a priority in all of the regional consultations, it was felt that fuller discussion on when and how localization should be supported in conflict and protracted crises was required, as previous regional consultations were almost exclusively focused on disaster settings.

A second overarching focus proposed by the RSG and endorsed by the high-level representatives attending the regional consultation was to emphasize the centrality of affected communities in humanitarian action. To this end, an abbreviated formal opening ceremony featuring only the two co-hosts, the Government of Tajikistan and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) was planned. This was to be immediately followed by a plenary panel discussion that brought together representatives of affected communities, government, and the high-level representatives of the United Nations.

For the workshops and related breakout groups sessions, a half-day session on the afternoon of the first day was dedicated to looking at key regional priorities for humanitarian action in disaster settings, while full-day sessions on humanitarian action in conflict and protracted crises were planned for the second day. The specific sub-topics for the breakout group sessions within each workshop were proposed by OCHA based on the initial results of the preparatory stakeholder consultations and validated by the RSG. Each workshop started with a panel discussion in which the lead facilitators for the respective breakout groups gave

an overview of the key issues to be discussed in the group they led. These introductory panels are summarized at the start of the respective workshop sessions. Additionally, the workshops on humanitarian action in conflict and protracted crises culminated in sub-plenary panels, but as the purpose of these was to provide feedback on the recommendations emerging from each group, they are not separately summarized in the this report.

For each breakout group session, facilitators were equipped with a summary of recommendations from previous regional consultations and asked to ensure that their group's discussions moved beyond reiterating those recommendations to arrive at new and/or more specific and actionable recommendations. As many of the breakout groups quickly endorsed the recommendations from previous consultations and then moved on to new points of discussion, the full summary of recommendations from previously regional consultations is presented in Annex 6. In the present report, each summary of the breakout group discussions is preceded by the initial recommendations that emerged from the breakout session, not all of which were taken forward in the Chair's Summary.

Rather than asking facilitators to provide feedback on the detailed discussions immediately after each breakout session, the RSG decided to hold a final breakout group session on the third day of the event. This session, organized according to stakeholder type, provided the opportunity for each stakeholder group to individually review the draft recommendations with an eye to strengthening them and initiating dialogue on how to take them forward at all levels. Each of the stakeholder breakout groups was facilitated in this exercise by one or more of the RSG members representing their constituency. Each followed the same process of presenting and discussing the Chair's Summary, recommendation by recommendation, with feedback provided in plenary on their proposed changes. This feedback is thus presented in the summary of the final panel discussion, and was taken under consideration in producing the final version of the Chair's Summary. The Chair's Summary was published on 4 August 2015, distributed to all participants, and posted online on the World Humanitarian Summit website www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca

As noted in the Chair's Summary, this was not intended to be a consensus document as it presented only a summary of issues discussed and recommendations proposed throughout the regional consultation. The present report attempts to provide a fuller record of those discussions. Additionally, for the public sessions, recordings of the webcast are available for viewing on the WHS South and Central Asia consultation webpage www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca. Where applicable, this is noted in the text of the report.

Any questions and/or comments on the report should be submitted to: scasia@whsummit.org

PLENARY
SESSIONS

OPENING CEREMONY

Mr. Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, opened the regional consultation, welcoming all of the participants to Dushanbe, and expressing appreciation for the confidence shown by having Tajikistan host the event.

The Deputy Minister emphasized the importance his country attached to improving the management and prevention of water-related disasters, noting that Tajikistan was the initiator of a number of important "water" resolutions at the UN General Assembly and had recently hosted the High-Level International Conference on the Implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" (2005-2015) in June 2015. Globally, water-related disasters caused some US$60 billion in damages annually, while drought and desertification threatened the welfare and lives of more than 1.2 billion people. In Tajikistan, water-related disasters had caused economic losses of $1 billion and claimed hundreds of lives over the past decade.

In this context and in the lead-up to the Summit in 2016, he said it was appropriate to focus on developing and strengthening cooperation between the countries of South and Central Asia to address humanitarian challenges in conflict, protracted crisis and natural disaster settings. Strengthening interaction between governments, donors, UN agencies and other stakeholders was also necessary to provide timely response to particular risks.

The increasing role of civil society, non-governmental organizations, women's and youth organizations made it more necessary than ever to raise public awareness on the need for timely crisis response and to develop more effective and innovative feedback mechanisms that took into account local cultures and provided advice based on trust and effective sharing of responsibilities.

The results of the regional consultation would be important in shaping the agenda of the World Humanitarian Summit, he said, calling for recommendations that would have a positive impact on humanitarian action in the region and strategically position preparedness and response in countries' work. The regional recommendations should situate South and Central Asia within the wider world, taking into account progress made and the experience of countries in the region and identifying potential for networking and dialogue between the countries of the region. He also proposed that participants consider adopting a plan of action at the end of the regional consultation to support humanitarian action in years to come.

Ambassador Akbar Ali Pesnani, Diplomatic Representative to Tajikistan, Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), thanked the Government of Tajikistan, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe for hosting the regional consultation. He gave particular thanks to the volunteers of the Ismaili Centre who had done much work to prepare for and support the regional consultation.

Noting that the aim of the WHS was to bring together global, regional, national and local actors and communities and commit to new approaches for reducing vulnerability, mitigating risk and strengthening preparedness and response for disasters, he gave an overview of the work of AKDN and its disaster management and crisis response agency, Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS). With a presence in more than 30 countries, AKDN had implemented a wide range of social and economic development projects that provided employment to more than 80,000 people worldwide. FOCUS had been operational for more than 20 years, supporting disaster risk reduction measures, providing emergency and humanitarian relief, and supporting preparedness programmes in vulnerable communities.

Stressing that humanitarian preparedness and response, and disaster risk reduction should be adapted to the needs and contexts of local communities, Mr. Pesnani said that experience showed that when emergency situations occurred, no matter the type of emergency, local communities were among the main agents of humanitarian action. It was critical to assist local communities with awareness raising, training and response. To this end, FOCUS had established the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which facilitated humanitarian readiness and response during emergency situations. FOCUS had established, trained and equipped 58 CERTs throughout Tajikistan. Over the past week, CERTs had been responding to the mudflows in the eastern part of Tajikistan, helping affected communities with alerting, evacuating and providing immediate assistance. Community-based disaster risk reduction in both urban and rural areas was also an important part of FOCUS' activities: in Tajikistan, detailed Hazard and Vulnerability Risk Assessments (HVRAs) had been conducted in over 360 communities.

He welcomed the WHS Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia as an excellent opportunity for provoking discussions, noting that it would also serve as a platform for information and knowledge-sharing among diverse actors in the humanitarian spectrum and could support sharing of feedback on approaches used by different actors.

After Mr. Pesnani's address, a video message from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was shown in plenary. The video message may be viewed here: www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_about. For further detail, please see the recording of the opening ceremony, which is available here: www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca/livestream

THE ROAD TO DUSHANBE

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, Chief of the World Humanitarian Summit secretariat (WHSs) presented on the global preparations for the Summit in Istanbul in May 2016 and informed participants that the aim of the WHS was to generate strong global support for change in humanitarian action, so as to meet the challenges of the coming years and decades. She explained that over the past 18 months, a series of regional and global consultations had taken place, and links had been built to other post-2015 agendas including those on disaster risk reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals, and climate change and urbanization.

Noting that the regional consultations had started in West and Central Africa and were now concluding in South and Central Asia, she explained that the WHS preparatory process had been intentionally and deliberately designed as a multi-stakeholder approach, so as to capture a wide range of stakeholders' views reflecting their diverse ideas, discussions, disagreements and recommendations. In addition to regional and thematic consultations, online consultations had been conducted via the WHS website and public contributions were being accepted. To date, more than 23,000 people in 151 countries had been consulted. Their views, consolidated and presented in the Synthesis Report, would provide the framework for the Global Consultation to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 14 to 16 October 2015.

Over the course of the regional consultations, she noted that several issues of common concern had clearly emerged, including the need to:

- empower affected populations, build a people-centred approach to humanitarian action, and leverage local capacities wherever possible, according to the relative advantages of all actors and nature of risks in different contexts;

- keep people safe in conflict and address the rising human cost of conflict situations, which were the drivers of the majority of humanitarian needs around the world;

- adapt and innovate within the humanitarian system to cope with new global challenges, risks and threats, including climate change, displacement, urbanization and demographic shifts, as well as new threats such as pandemics;

- close the gender gap in humanitarian preparedness and response, including by working together to eliminate gender-based violence in all contexts; and

- bridge the growing gap between humanitarian needs and the resources available to meet them, in which regard the proposals and recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing would guide thinking.

Still ahead on the WHS agenda prior to Istanbul were several major milestones, including the Global Youth Consultation (to be held in Doha, Qatar from 1 to 2 September 2015), the final Thematic Consultation (to be held in Berlin, Germany from 9 to 11 September 2015), and the Global Consultation. Following the Global Consultation, the report of the UN Secretary-General on the WHS was expected to be issued in December 2015. This would be the primary background documentation going into the Summit.

The Summit itself was to be held from 23 to 24 May 2016, and would serve as a platform for heads of state and government, and leaders from civil society, crisis-affected communities, private sector and multilateral organizations to come together to announce how they intended to take forward the priority areas identified.

Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall, OCHA Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific and RSG Chair, provided an overview of the regional preparatory consultations. He noted that the approximately 150 people in the room represented the views of hundreds of millions of people across the 16 countries covered by the regional consultation. In order to make sure that their voices were heard and their representatives equipped to represent them, an extensive preparatory process was undertaken by OCHA, supported by the RSG.

Emphasizing the commitment of the RSG to reach out beyond traditional partnerships to discuss the WHS, he noted that 176 organizations had completed online surveys using different modes of technology, while 112 people had completed online community surveys. A far greater number – 5,691 people – from conflict- and disaster-affected communities had participated in community-based surveys, focus group discussions and/or local and national consultations led by local civil society organizations. Youth participation had reached new heights in South and Central Asia, where 846 young people were consulted, and 11 youth representatives were participating in the regional consultation. Some 14 private sector representatives completed the online survey, and 80 participated in focus group discussions, in addition to those who had joined for business-specific consultations, including the one held in Bangkok for Asia in December 2014. Moreover, 10 Member States joined the preparatory workshop held in New York in June 2015, while representatives of 12 Member States completed the online survey.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

Panel discussion on stakeholder perspectives, featuring (from left to right): **Mr. Umair Hasan**, Regional Humanitarian Manager Asia, Islamic Relief Worldwide; **Ms. Aizhan Kapysheva**, Youth Representative from Kazakhstan, UN Major Group on Children and Youth; **Mr. Marcel Vaessen**, Regional Head for Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine, UN OCHA (moderator); **Ms. Gulmira Kozhobergenova**, Chair of the Executive Committee, Kyrgyz Alliance of Civil Society for Nutrition and Food Security; **Mr. Razwan Nabin**, Youth Representative from Bangladesh, UN Major Group on Children and Youth (as moderator of the Online Consultation); and **Mr. Idibek Kalandarov**, Head of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan.

In total, this added up to more than 7,600 voices from more than 700 organizations contributing to the wealth of material that was consolidated and synthesized in the Regional Stakeholder Analysis. It was clear that people around the region took the preparatory process very seriously, meaning there was no shortage of points of discussion or debate put forward for consideration by organizations and individuals alike, especially from those working at community level.

As the final in a series of eight, this regional consultation faced a number of opportunities but also challenges. A great deal had already been said, and the consultation should try to avoid being a repetition of those that went before. At the same time, as the last regional consultation, its recommendations were likely to have more weight. Noting that there was still insufficient clarity as to what effectively localising preparedness and response really entailed, he said another aspect that clearly emerged from previous consultations was the need to examine how humanitarian action was organised in different settings. From this emerged the framework of the regional consultation's workshop sessions on humanitarian action in disaster, conflict and protracted crises, as well as its overarching theme of localising preparedness and response.

Within each area, a number of regional priorities for action had emerged and, taken together, focused on hearing and heeding the voices and choices of affected people, particularly women and youth; strengthening legal frameworks for humanitarian action in each type of response environment; developing new models of coordination and financing that were able to respond to current and future humanitarian challenges; and enabling and encouraging the activities of the diverse partners now involved in humanitarian action. Taking these regional priorities into account in the discussions in each workshop, and reflecting them in the recommendations to come from the regional consultation was the challenge that needed to be met by all participants.

Following the presentations on the global and regional preparatory processes, a panel of stakeholder representatives comprising RSG members from key constituencies took the stage to provide an overview of critical elements from the preparatory consultations.

The government representative, Mr. Kalandarov, opened the panel discussion by acknowledging the usefulness of the preparatory consultations in informing governments about humanitarian response in the region, and emphasised the need for governments to better collaborate with other stakeholders when responding to humanitarian needs. In addition to explaining that humanitarian assistance should be delivered through better multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration, he also noted the need for better internal coordination across different branches of government in order to ensure community needs were addressed in a timely manner. He added that the Sendai and Hyogo frameworks were instructive for governments, and encouraged governments to strengthen their collaboration and commitments in this regard. The IASC agencies representative, Mr. Hasan, supported this view, stressing that cooperation was the key to forging better government collaboration with international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Representing local civil society organizations (CSOs), Ms. Kozhobergenova, emphasized the need to build CSO capacity. She said there was much potential for CSOs to play a greater role in disaster response, but this could not be done without first building their capacity. Citing controversy over a proposal by international organizations for the artificial feeding of children during the June 2010 conflict in Kyrgyzstan, she explained that local CSOs were better positioned to understand and respond to the different needs of communities, ensuring they were put first. She suggested the best way to build the capacity of local CSOs was to ensure two-way capacity building with international NGOs: international NGOs needed to establish long-term links with local organizations ahead of disasters, which would ensure financial support and regular feedback and training for communities.

Mr. Hasan agreed that local capacity building was urgently needed, particularly as the humanitarian landscape had come to involve many new actors over the past 15 years. Many of these organizations participated in response without a clearly defined role. He noted that from the stakeholder analysis, the majority of respondents thought that only 50 percent of resources to address humanitarian needs were regularly met at national

PANEL DISCUSSION ON STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

level, which meant there was a 50 percent gap that remained to be filled by international humanitarian actors. He also noted the important role that funding could play in helping to close this gap, and suggested that humanitarian actors needed to engage non-traditional donors, find new ways of raising funds through innovative collaborations, and develop stronger international accountability measures so that all parties knew where they stood in terms of aid delivery, and were accountable as members of the a broader humanitarian community.

Ms. Kapysheva spoke of the need to better involve youth in humanitarian action, conceding that this was not an easy task because there was often distrust and suspicion from youth about the actions of international humanitarian organizations in the region. She noted that young people often observed some villages or regions receiving aid while others did not. Inequality in the provision of aid was not just an issue with regard to international organizations, however, but also a concern about national humanitarian organizations. To improve the relationship between youth and humanitarian organizations, she had two suggestions. First, a variety of information channels should be developed to improve communication and information-sharing between humanitarian organizations and youth from affected local communities. Not only would this allow youth to be recipients of humanitarian information, but it would also empower them to promote activities for global humanitarian action. She also noted that the development of these information channels would help curb the dilemma of young people not knowing how to become involved, and could facilitate the better reception of information by transcending language barriers. Second, she suggested that international response to humanitarian crises was often too slow; in this regard, the participation of young people could be very valuable. For example, a young person in Nepal took action to form his own NGO within 72 hours of the Nepal earthquake in order to mobilize response. Through supporting information channels, humanitarian organizations would be better positioned to engage youth and leverage their manpower and enthusiasm in order to better address immediate humanitarian needs.

In support of this view, Mr. Nabin explained that it was clear from the online regional consultations that respondents felt strongly about the need to bridge intergenerational humanitarian approaches. Speaking as a moderator of the online consultation, Mr. Nabin noted that these discussions included participants from outside South and Central Asia, which illustrated how technology more broadly could be seen to play a valuable role in humanitarian communication. Humanitarian and other actors used the consultation as a platform to share best practices from

working on the ground to support community engagement in the aftermath of the April and May earthquakes in Nepal. Because they were online, people in other parts of the world could also learn from these discussions, whereas they might not normally have been privy to them. He reiterated respondents' concerns that humanitarian organizations needed to engage non-traditional actors such as the private sector and media more effectively and involve them as a factor in supporting localized response. He also noted that two-way communication needed to be better integrated into humanitarian response in order to ensure accountability and so that communities were given the opportunity to voice their needs to those serving them. Online respondents had also expressed concern that legislation and policies needed to be amended to establish stronger implementation processes and address current gaps.

Asked for suggestions on how to improve humanitarian response in protracted crises in the region, the panellists' opinions differed. Mr. Hasan noted the importance of considering the role of governments, looking at existing frameworks and how stakeholders could better contribute to these, and continuing to encourage local capacity building in the region with support from the international community. Ms. Kapysheva suggested that youth could play a role, considering that there were many different perspectives on decision-making and responsibility in effecting humanitarian action. Youth might not have the experience, but could offer new perspectives, including those from affected communities. On the other hand, Mr. Nabin stressed the potential for media engagement, citing the role of radio in Bangladesh and how instrumental it was in allowing communities to prepare themselves and communicate information. He also noted that in addition to providing warnings, radios could help communities to bridge the knowledge gap, educating them about alternative crops to plant during a crisis and thus contributing to community survival. Additionally, he stressed the role of media in obtaining first-hand views from people on the ground, which could help to provide feedback and two-way accountability regarding humanitarian action. He also noted that the same people who were beneficiaries to humanitarians were also audiences to the media.

Asked what they saw as preventing the humanitarian system from changing, the panellists raised issues related to language, and the difficulty of engaging non-traditional actors. For example, 'protection' meant something completely different to the private sector as to humanitarians. Humanitarian actors needed to adapt their language to different audiences, and change their mind-set to be more receptive to the perspectives of other actors. Others emphasized that, if the private sector and other non-traditional actors were to become involved in humanitarian assistance beyond donating money, the humanitarian system needed to create space for them. It was suggested there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate the benefits of partnering for both humanitarian and private sector actors. Finally, the commonalities that media, the private sector and humanitarians all shared should be better recognized: they all needed to be accountable to the recipients of their products and services who were their audiences, consumers and beneficiaries respectively.

For further detail, please see the recording of the panel discussion, which is available here:
www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca/livestream

THE CENTRALITY OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Panel discussion on the centrality of affected communities, featuring (from left to right): **Ms. Najiba Shirinbekova**, Community Representative, Tajikistan; **Mr. Om Prakash Singh**, Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs of India; **Ms. Ertharin Cousin**, Executive Director, WFP; **Ms. Heba Aly**, Managing Editor, IRIN (moderator); **Mr. Ragavanda Alphonsus**, Community Representative, Sri Lanka; **Ms. Kyung-wha Kang**, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, UN OCHA; and **Mr. Pradeep Kandel**, Community Representative, Nepal.

Ms. Aly opened the panel by noting that there were insufficient opportunities for community representatives to participate in discussions about humanitarian response. She said that she was keen to look beyond the usual depiction of humanitarian systems to get a sense of what could really work in terms of localising preparedness and response. In response, Mr. Alphonsus identified some key issues, including the humanitarian practice of ensuring that all affected communities received the same amount of money, when in reality the scale of the need differed. He also noted that in situations where there was little local capacity or it was eroded, aid dependency became an issue. The humanitarian community needed to address this, as it was part of the cause of the problem. More focus on building resilience was needed, he said, and humanitarians needed to reflect on the serious bottlenecks to this.

Picking up on his point about 'walking the talk' on resilience, Ms. Cousin said the resilience of communities was better built by creating more opportunities for actual partnership at every level, or else the entire system risked being dismantled. Humanitarians should start their work from a focus on meeting the actual needs of those they served, rather than on what they were mandated to provide. Community involvement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian programmes was also needed. Moving beyond crisis management to risk management was the key.

Understanding communities' coping strategies was necessary in conflict as well as disaster settings, noted Ms. Shirinbekova, who gave an example from her country's conflict in the mid-1990s about the role of communities, especially women and girls, in sheltering vulnerable members of their community and organizing self-defence forces. Communities should be empowered to identify solutions to their own challenges, she said.

Agreeing that communities were often the first responders in crises, Ms. Kang noted that more focused engagement with donors was needed to find ways of funding preparedness and capacity building at the local level. She highlighted that one of the key barriers to community self-empowerment was often the inability to access, or make decisions regarding, the allocation of funds. Noting that there was still debate as to whether this sort of long-term financing should come from the development sector or the humanitarian sector, she proposed the establishment of a Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for preparedness.

Mr. Singh said that, when speaking of the needs and aspirations of communities, including as first responders, there was still a gap to bridge in terms of understanding social needs, culture and geography. He suggested that technology was a powerful tool for inter-community and international sharing of best practice. Mr. Kandel noted that youth volunteers using new technological responses to humanitarian aid proved to be a successful combination in Nepal.

Ms. Kang stressed the importance of ensuring that local community resources were recognized and employed by international responders, so that communities could take leadership in developing self-resilience. In this way, local capacity should grow

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and international capacity diminish, so that in future the role of the international community would only be to step in when it was explicitly required to do so.

On this point, Ms. Cousin pointed out that the decision as to whether or not a country requested international support was ultimately that of national governments, but agreed that building local capacity was likely to play an important role in enabling governments to better recognize when they had capacity to meet humanitarian needs alone, and when they needed to accept or seek international assistance.

Ms. Aly suggested that one of the main challenges with the current structure of the humanitarian system was that accountability was directed upward towards donors, rather than downwards to affected communities, and asked the panel for their views on how this could be changed. In response, Mr. Alphonsus said that building confidence among affected communities that their needs would be heard was required. He identified two factors influencing this reality: first, that donors tended to be the ones setting the agenda and their decision-making was also based on strategic interests, not just humanitarian principles; and second, that humanitarian agencies sometimes had demonstrated the same aid-dependent behaviour of communities. Ms. Cousin meanwhile stressed that working with communities at every point in the planning and implementation process was key to ensuring that communities' needs and perspectives were heard. She also emphasized the importance of bridging between humanitarian and development-focused work to ensure that, as transition proceeded, community objectives were kept at the forefront.

Suggesting that there was potential for Islamic social financing and the private sector to play a greater role in mobilizing resources for response, Ms. Aly turned to Mr. Kandel, who noted that telecommunication companies, in making access to their networks free of charge, had made essential contributions in Nepal and showed how business could use its technical expertise and capacity for response. Ms. Kang picked up the point to note that the private sector had demonstrated willingness – indeed eagerness – to engage with humanitarian organizations and on the WHS. At the same time, it was important to keep in mind that local businesses were the critical factor in the equation. When crisis

came, they were affected in the same way as local communities and had the same motivation to bring the situation back to normal, therefore the humanitarian sector needed to understand how to reach out to local businesses more effectively.

Coming back to Ms. Shirinbekova, Ms. Aly asked her to provide some views on how to respond when communities were both affected by and involved in crisis, such as in conflict. Ms. Shirinbekova noted that communities in conflict often suffered from lack of access to outside communication and were isolated as a result. Access to information, in her experience, was critical so that communities were able to share information on their experiences. She also highlighted the positive impact of volunteers on response capacity and as an example described the role of volunteers in response to recent mudslides in Tajikistan. Mudslide impacts were communicated via social and then mass media and as a result other parts of the country mobilised resources for the affected area, which were delivered by volunteers. There was an important aspect to this in terms of focusing communication with communities work on facilitating information exchange among communities, not just between humanitarians and communities.

Coming to the panel's close, Ms. Aly asked each of the panellists to reflect on what the humanitarian system should look like in 2050. Ms. Kang noted the need to bring more diversity and inclusiveness to the system, and that this would be achieved by 2050. She also pointed out that accountability, at heart, should not be from humanitarian provider to humanitarian donor, but to recipient. Also of importance was accountability of governments to their citizens, with emphasis on the fact that vulnerable people did not forego their rights simply because they were caught up in crisis.

Ms. Cousin emphasized the importance of ensuring that all members of communities, including women and youth, the private sector and government were engaged in response and leadership. The value of technological solutions in improving humanitarian response needed to be emphasized as well.

Mr. Alphonsus also suggested that humanitarians needed to be willing to take on greater exposure to risk while working in conflicts to be able to meet needs in future.

For further detail, please see the recording of the panel discussion, which is available here:
www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca/livestream

HUMANITARIAN FINANCING AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

Panel discussion on humanitarian financing and humanitarian principles, featuring (from left to right): **Mr. Sabit Narbayev**, Director of the Representative Office in Almaty, Kazakhstan National Export and Investment Agency (Kaznex Invest); **Mr. Manu Gupta**, Chair, Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN); **Mr. Hesham Youssef**, Assistant Secretary-General, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC); **Ms. Ertharin Cousin**, Executive Director, WFP; and **Ms. Kyung-wha Kang**, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, UN OCHA (moderator).

The second day of the regional consultation opened with a plenary panel discussion on Humanitarian Financing and Humanitarian Principles, moderated by OCHA's Assistant Secretary-General. In her opening remarks, Ms. Kang noted that the cost of responding to wars and disasters had increased by 660 percent over the past 15 years. Despite significant increases in the amount of humanitarian funding over the same period, many crises remained underfunded.

Hard decisions had to be made to develop a financing framework that was fit for purpose, she said. Essentially, humanitarian financing was focused on achieving the speed and flexibility required for rapid-onset disasters. However, 80 percent of financing was now tied up in long-term responses to protracted crises. The humanitarian community had to stop looking at protracted crises as aberrations. Moreover, there was poor understanding of the broader range of financing deployed in response to crises, including bilateral budget support, remittances and domestic contributions. There was need to counter the idea that humanitarian financing must be leveraged through multilateral and international partners and instruments.

In response to these challenges, proposals to increase and diversify financing included forging stronger links between humanitarian response and Islamic social finance; strengthening the ways in which social protection and risk financing mechanisms supported sudden-onset responses; and looking at how funds flowed through the system, i.e. whether more money could be channelled through community-based organizations, and what the barriers, real or imagined, were to that. Moreover, growing economic prosperity in developing countries would continue to enhance their capacity to cope with higher levels of risk.

Beyond the growth in humanitarian need, other challenges included increasing political pressure to see humanitarian action as part of the crisis management toolbox, or to link it to counter-insurgency, stabilisation or military intervention strategies. As a result, humanitarian aid could be perceived as tied to political and military objectives, and concentrated in areas of strategic importance. At the same time, donors recognized the need to safeguard the humanitarian principles within integrated planning and decision-making processes.

In short, the humanitarian financing landscape was changing rapidly. Discussions as to what was the right type and duration of humanitarian funding and the most appropriate instrument for each type of crisis were needed, as was a more collective and diversified approach to financing. Ms. Kang stressed that the question should not be about how big the international humanitarian assistance budget was, but how it was used in complement to other sources of finance. International humanitarian financing should resort to being the safety-net of last resort, with a particular focus on conflict and catastrophic shocks.

Turning to the panellists, Ms. Kang asked each for their views on the key issues related to trends and future requirements for humanitarian financing and humanitarian principles, what solutions to current challenges they saw as being potentially effective and where reform was required. Among the key points raised and discussed by the panellists:

• The private sector was widely seen as having additional capacity as a source of humanitarian financing, as well as a partner providing in-kind assistance and services for humanitarian response. Several strategies for strengthening this engagement needed to be pursued, however, including more awareness raising and familiarization of private sector companies with the humanitarian system and structures. Creating incentives for business to invest in humanitarian response, for example by providing tax breaks to companies that supported emergency

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response, was seen as a way of achieving more buy-in from the business sector; similarly, businesses should be recognized as supporting response and recovery where they adopted strategies such as deferring loan repayments after disasters, etc. On the other hand, some concern was expressed around the need to mitigate the requirements of accountability to private sector donors that could emerge from greater business engagement in response.

- At the intersection of business and government engagement, the establishment and/or strengthening of risk insurance pooled funds, in which governments and/or communities could pay in to a central reserve and then make withdrawals to support response when required, could create valuable new sources of financing. Establishing requirements for insurance against disaster and crisis-related risk would require the support of governments.

- Trends in localizing humanitarian financing should be seen as multi-faceted. On the one hand, there were more funds than ever being provided among and within communities to support humanitarian response. Local giving by individuals, contributions from local businesses and diaspora remittances assured community-based organizations of a source of funding not accessible to international actors, as these groups tended to support the organizations with whom they were familiar. On the other hand, donors continued to demonstrate the same behaviour in terms of how they provided resources, and it remained challenging for local organizations to access international funds, whether from donors, international NGOs and/or pooled funds. Structural impediments, as well as proposal writing and reporting requirements, were difficult for local organizations to surmount. Among the specific proposals in this regard were: (i) that donors should commit to channelling 20 percent of funding directly through local organizations by 2020; and (ii) that all donors and international organizations should strengthen and systematize their reporting on how they worked with local organizations and communities.

- A specific set of challenges concerned the impact of counter-terrorism legislation, with some banks pre-emptively moving to close NGO and local organization accounts because of new rules and regulations. This self-restriction needed to be mitigated so that aid and remittances could continue to flow to conflict zones; the risk was a return to the days when organizations carried

bags of cash into responses because there was no banking system to use.

- The need for increased respect for humanitarian principles, particularly in conflict zones and by non-state actors was also raised. There were no bold new suggestions as to how to achieve this, other than increasing global scrutiny and awareness on violations of international humanitarian law where they occurred.

- A more fruitful area of innovation concerned the potential uses of technology to reduce the cost of delivering assistance. Beyond aiding an increased transition to cash-based response, technology could support remote assessments, monitoring and evaluation at lower cost – all of which would still be required with primarily cash-based assistance.

- The value for money of preparedness work was emphasized, with examples cited from Nepal, where the establishment of warehouses in-country meant that supplies got to affected communities faster and at lower cost than otherwise. In the wake of the Ebola response, there were new cooperation initiatives between agencies with global stockpiles and logistics capacities as well.

- On the idea of establishing a humanitarian bank, similar to those for development, panellists generally concurred that this may not be a feasible option and questioned where source funds would come from and how such a structure would be sustained. Unlike the development sector, loans for emergency response would not be repaid with interest. Instead, the focus should be on strengthening existing grant-based mechanisms to make them more accessible to local organizations.

As this was a closed session, no recording of the session is publicly available and the sources of individual comments have not been reflected in the summary of the panel.

Immediately after the panel discussion, a pre-recorded video message from UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien was played. The video message may be viewed here: www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca. The participants then moved into the Humanitarian Action in Conflict or Humanitarian Action in Protracted Crises workshops for the remainder of the day.

SPECIAL ADDRESS BY AFGHANISTAN'S MINISTER OF REFUGEES AND REPATRIATION

On the morning of the regional consultation's third day, there was a special address by **H.E. Mr. Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi, Minister of Refugees and Repatriation of Afghanistan**, who expressed his sincere appreciation to the co-hosts for organizing the WHS Regional Consultation. Acknowledging that war was a reality in human societies, he said its negative consequences should not be ignored.

The Minister referred to the Sacred Quran and the Prophet's speeches to emphasize that Islam did not allow for fighting except in defence. Islam also ensured the rights of civilians during conflict and war. Raising the challenges of migration and refugees, he said the war in Afghanistan had driven millions people out of their motherland and that there was a need for voluntary and dignified return of refugees to Afghanistan.

The support of the international community was appreciated by the Government of Afghanistan. With the support of international and national security forces, the Government was trying to improve the situation; however, there were still many internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country living in difficult conditions away from their homes.

The Minister proposed that the UN Member States should agree on a common definition of terrorism and develop a joint approach to fighting it. He also called upon the international community to continue its support to the displaced population in Afghanistan.

PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT CHAIR'S SUMMARY

Following the address by the Minister of Refugees and Repatriation, the OCHA representatives serving as RSG Chair, **Mr. Vaessen** and **Mr. Lacey-Hall**, presented the draft Chair's Summary.

Reading out the recommendations, the Chair explained that the RSG had met the night before to work on the recommendations contained in the Chair's Summary. In doing so, they had referenced the proposed recommendations received from each of the breakout group sessions, and in some places had brought together overlapping and/or complementary recommendations proposed by multiple groups. Thus, while initially framed within specific workshops, some of the draft recommendations were presented in the section on overarching recommendations, while others were listed under the respective workshop topics, i.e. humanitarian action in disasters, conflict and protracted crises.

In the final version of this draft, the intention was to open with a statement that contextualised the WHS in terms of the reality of what was happening in the world and in the context of other global processes that would and had taken place in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The Chair's Summary would endorse the statement that different types of crisis required different approaches and solutions, and would include a clear statement, in line with the discussion that took place on the first day affirming that localising preparedness and response must be considered in all contexts. Furthermore, the Chair's Summary would affirm the centrality of affected people to humanitarian action, and call for flexible and integrated planning and financing of preparedness, response, recovery and longer-term approaches, particularly in protracted crises.

There would be a section that linked the recommendations from South and Central Asia to those emanating from previous consultations. In this regard, the Chair reiterated that the RSG had followed the commitment to carefully reference what had gone before and what had already been recommended, thus ensuring these points did not need to be repeated. The RSG had also tried to reduce the "humanitarian speak" in the document as much as possible.

Following the presentation, the next step was to give the participants two hours in their stakeholder groupings to discuss the draft Chair's Summary. During the session, each group should nominate a representative who would report back in the final plenary panel discussion. The groups should not add additional recommendations, but should focus on discussing and recording areas of strong agreement with the recommendations so that their prioritization of presentation in the final Chair's Summary could be reviewed. The groups were also encouraged to reflect on areas of discomfort with the recommendations and explain why; however, the Chair cautioned that objection to a recommendation by any single group did not mean it would be removed if it were supported by other groups.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Panel discussion on stakeholder feedback on proposed recommendations, featuring (from left to right): **Mr. Taef Ul Haq**, Colonel, Training Directorate, Armed Forces Division, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh; **Mr. Allan Calma**, Deputy Director, Disaster Management Programme, Community World Service (Pakistan); **Ms. Tuğba Akçaoğlu**, Youth Representative from Turkey, UN Major Group on Children and Youth; **Ms. Mahbuba Nasreen**, Director & Professor, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka (Bangladesh); **Mr. Martin Faller**, Head of Operations, Asia Pacific Regional Office, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); and **Mr. Rashid Khalikov**, Director, OCHA Geneva (moderator).

The final plenary session opened with each of the stakeholder representatives presenting feedback from their group on the recommendations put forward in the Chair's Summary. A particular focus was on discussions around ownership of the recommendations by different stakeholders. The panellists respectively represented governments; local CSOs and affected communities; youth; academia, private sector and the media; and the IASC agencies.

Extensive feedback was received from the government representative, Mr. Ul Haq, highlighting the need for governments to take ownership over a majority of the recommendations, so as to reflect the central role of government in leading humanitarian action, with support from other stakeholders. The need to use appropriate language throughout the Chair's Summary was discussed, particularly with regard to requests for government action, i.e. by reflecting that this should be done where appropriate and not demanding that governments take specific action that could impinge on their sovereignty. The need to adapt recommendations to the different situations in various countries was also highlighted.

Much of the discussion in the breakout groups revolved around language and issues of inclusion. For instance, Mr. Calma noted that some CSO stakeholders wanted to broaden specific language, such as references to women and girls, to include other vulnerable groups such as older people and people with disabilities. Further suggestions included using more specific language around protection and ensuring gender based violence was specifically referenced in the final recommendations. Ms. Akçaoğlu said that youth representatives asked for more focus on protection, and also sought to strengthen the language of climate change-related recommendations. They also highlighted the need to include risk-financing in the recommendations as a means to help address protracted crises.

On behalf of academia, private sector and the media, Ms. Nasreen informed of discussion around the roles of these groups within the recommendations and suggested a number of inclusions to strengthen this. There was strong support for moving beyond talk of dialogue to identifying specific processes that should be put in place. The group had also discussed whether certain recommendations that had been targeted to a specific operational context should be made broader, and highlighted the need for further definition in some areas where language was not clear. The role of media and the relevance of public-private partnerships were also raised in the discussion.

The IASC agencies' representative, Mr. Faller, provided extensive comments on the specific language used in the recommendations and how this applied to the many humanitarian actors represented in the group. Key points were made with regard to recommendations around protection, refugees and migrants and peace-building and the need to maintain the centrality of communities was highlighted. The group discussed where counter-terrorism laws and non-state actors should be included in the recommendations. They also requested that specific examples related to legal frameworks be referenced in the recommendations to ensure clarity.

Following the initial discussion, a question and answer session was conducted using prepared questions and the Pigeonhole programme. In response to a question as to what kind of framework was needed to help ensure the accountability of the diverse range of stakeholders involved in humanitarian action, Mr. Calma noted that there were already standards for quality assurance and accountability in place, and that the problem for those working on the ground was in fact trying to keep up with changes and new guidelines. He proposed that instead of coming up with a new accountability framework, current quality assurance and

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

accountability frameworks should be improved and disseminated in partnership with communities and other stakeholders. Mr. Faller suggested that the most important consideration when talking about accountability frameworks was to determine for what each party was accountable. Many thought they were accountable to donors or governments; however, they were in fact first and foremost accountable to the people they served. Yet many accountability frameworks did not reflect this. Frameworks for disaster ethics helped to give an accountability perspective, and there were also standard mechanisms for accountability in peace-building and conflict situations.

Responding to a question on whether there was a need for a fiscal or accountability watchdog to be put in place, Ms. Akçaoğlu highlighted the need to raise awareness, explaining that as people grew more aware and became more involved in these issues, governments would then become aware, providing a space to form new ideas and create change.

Asked whether the WHS could be a truly multi-stakeholder process if governments insisted on remaining in full control and were not willing to delegate responsibilities to other actors, Mr. Ul Haq noted that governments in each country normally had clear guidelines as to how humanitarian action should be undertaken. Governments delegated powers to different organizations to carry out certain functions, but also needed to ensure they retained some control, as this was seen to be critical for the sovereignty of the country. Mr. Calma in turn asked whether the global North would be willing to cede greater power to the global South. He suggested this issue had been discussed many times before and that it was not just about political will, but about everyone needing to change their views in order to effect change.

In response to a question regarding to what extent the recommendations were ready to be realised, panellists acknowledged that this could be difficult as they needed to be contextualised according to country needs, experiences and priorities, and then implemented. Mr. Calma said that no member of the panel could answer the question definitively, as this was

what would be established through the larger WHS. Mr. Faller, meanwhile, suggested that the recommendations were part of an on-going process, based in practical experience and supported by academic research, and that most could be, or already had begun to be, realised. He highlighted that the challenge was implementing them throughout the humanitarian system, and that this would be difficult and would require daily attention. The need for governments, CSOs and international organizations to work together was reiterated.

From the floor, the panel was asked what mechanism should be used to monitor whether the recommendations received buy-in from stakeholders in the region, in response to which Ms. Nasreen identified the need to engage other stakeholders who were not as engaged in the process to date, particularly stakeholders without a mandate in their own country. She stressed that all stakeholders must be involved along with communities and the media to disseminate the information and recommendations to a wider audience. The recommendation for the UN Secretary-General to ensure that the WHS process was periodically reviewed was also noted.

The final question from the moderator asked how stakeholders could ensure the Summit complemented a call to action for the global political system, which would be needed to address the underlying issues. Achieving the recommendations would require strong political commitment, and stakeholders should learn from the successes of the past to move forward. Mr. Faller said that attempts to deal with protracted crises showed that not all situations were able to be resolved on the political level. The need to be optimistic was clear, as there had been much success and progress, but the underlying causes were often only very slowly being resolved.

For further detail, please see the recording of the panel discussion, which is available here:
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CLOSING CEREMONY

Mr. Zohidi opened with congratulations to the organizers and participants of the regional consultation for their fruitful and constructive work over the past days, assuring the group this would constitute a substantive contribution to the agenda of the forthcoming World Humanitarian Summit.

Noting that Tajikistan, as a mountainous and landlocked country, annually faced a series of water-related disasters, he explained how the government had gained enough experience to address them with the help of its international partners. Governments played the central role in responding to humanitarian needs and protecting affected populations in the region. The preparatory consultations had emphasized a number of issues that needed to be addressed; first among them was achieving better coordination of humanitarian response efforts while collaborating with all stakeholders.

Efforts needed to be made to facilitate the engagement of private sector and civil society actors in humanitarian response, strengthen local capacity to respond to disasters, build resilience at the community level, strengthen the leadership role of disaster management bodies at the local level, and allocate resources through annual budgets to implement humanitarian responses.

Recognizing the value of the Hyogo and Sendai Frameworks in providing a clear and internationally agreed roadmap to guide governments, humanitarian and development agencies and other partners in focusing on disaster risk management, he reiterated that there was still a lot of work to do to operationalize the Sendai Framework.

Regarding protracted crises and long-term displacement, he stressed the need for all parties to work together to find durable solutions, which would require political commitment at national and international levels. He also said that governments, humanitarian actors and other parties needed to work together to prepare for and respond to humanitarian needs generated by conflict in a more coherent way. Just as in disaster, it was important to strengthen and rebuild local systems and capacity in conflict

and protracted crises in order to build resilience for the long term. Wherever possible, humanitarians and civil society should work with governments and build on local laws and customs to positively influence protection work.

In conclusion, he expressed full support for the recommendations resulting from the consultation.

Mr. Pesnani thanked the Government of Tajikistan and OCHA once again for their support in hosting the regional consultation, and the ministers from Afghanistan and Pakistan for their contributions, as well as all of the participants that who gathered in Dushanbe. He noted that the three days of the regional consultation had provided a real learning opportunity for the AKDN and FOCUS teams, and felt that as organizations they were now better informed. Recalling in particular the panel discussion on humanitarian financing, he urged the humanitarian community to look for new ways to use available resources in a more judicious, effective and efficient manner, and to focus on those most affected and therefore most vulnerable to crisis.

He stressed the importance of putting forward a solid group of recommendations to the WHS, noting that not all recommendations could be implemented in one go, but that if even half were implemented, that would be an achievement in itself.

Acknowledging that these were times of extraordinary challenge, where conflict was intensifying, the magnitude of disasters increasing, and the impact of climate change deepening, he called for more effective and innovative solutions from all stakeholders – those present at the regional consultation today and the millions of other engaged in this process around the world.

He wished everyone success in the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit, and concluded by reiterating his appreciation to the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe and its hard-working volunteers for facilitating this event, which had come off without flaw.

CLOSING CEREMONY
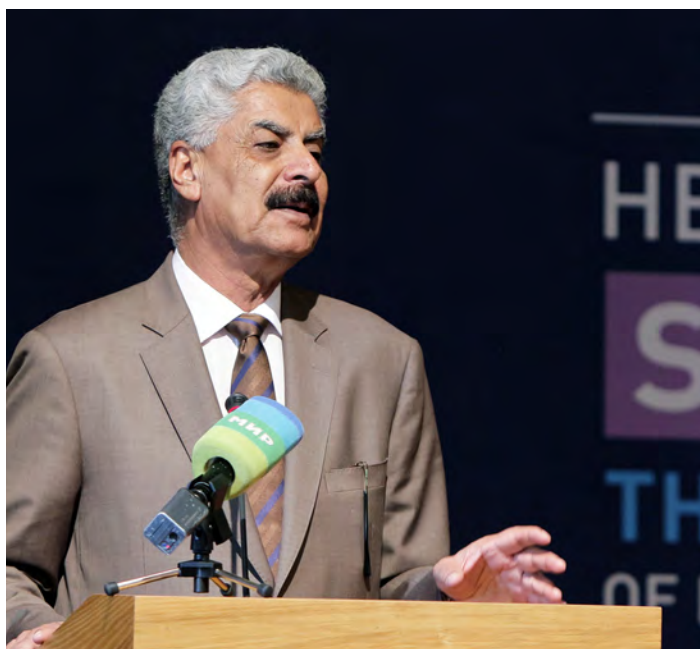
H.E. Mr. Abdul Qadir Baloch, Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions of Pakistan, began by expressing his regret that he had been unable to participate fully in all sessions due to conflicting obligations, and congratulated the participants for delivering the recommendations. He noted the magnitude of the humanitarian situation in Pakistan, with over five million refugees having entered the country since 1979, and currently more than three million still living in the country. The Minister said that solutions to this protracted crisis were needed and expressed hope that the recommendations put forward would help provide them.

Stressing that practical action was far more important than theoretical discussion, the Minister shared his sense that it was three and a half decades late to be addressing the refugee crisis in his country. From Pakistan's perspective, there was a feeling that the country had been left by other countries in the region and by the international community to deal with the refugees alone. He emphasized the need for the world's major governments to take responsibility for the situation they had contributed to across the region.

In terms of the recommendations of the consultation, the Minister confirmed that these needed to be applied with specific reference to the environment of the country where the humanitarian challenge was to be found. This was a key point for governments in terms of ensuring humanitarian action was in line with local political requirements, as general recommendations might not match to local factors. He highlighted the risk that mismatch between government ideas and those of international NGOs could create difficulty.

In conclusion, the Minister thanked the participants, OCHA, and AKDN for their roles in hosting the consultation. He urged participants to tell the international community that they should continue to share with the poor, who needed the support and help of those who had the resources.

Finally, **Ms. Kang** thanked the participants for their hard work over the past three days, and said it had been an honour to be part of some truly engaging discussions which highlighted the diversity and passion of the many stakeholders that participated in the regional consultation. She highlighted the commitment of all the participants in Dushanbe, as well as those who joined the preparatory stakeholder consultations around the region between April and June 2015, noting that this groundwork meant that the regional consultation started from the basis of a strong analysis of regional perspectives.

Welcoming the solid list of regional recommendations presented by the Chairs of the consultation, she informed participants that these would move forward to the global synthesis report and the global consultation, which would in turn form the basis of the Secretary-General's report going into the Summit itself. She noted the feedback from the various stakeholder groups on their support for, or areas of concern regarding, the regional recommendations and confirmed that these views would be reviewed by the Chair.

Given that humanitarian action by definition was carried out under difficult circumstances, she stressed that the WHS aimed to make it function as well as possible. All stakeholders needed to come together and show the political will and professional expertise and excellence to overcome the political, institutional and behavioural obstacles to achieving that goal.

She thanked the Government of Tajikistan, AKDN, FOCUS and the Ismaili Centre, its staff and volunteers for hosting the regional consultation, and reminded the participants that the WHS would only be a success if it delivered improvements in response to the needs and aspirations of people affected by crisis, and did so in ways that reinforced their dignity and resilience.

For further detail, please see the recording of the closing ceremony, which is available here:
www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/whs_sca/livestream

WORKSHOP
SESSIONS

Homes destroyed by earthquake in Nepal.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN DISASTERS

PANELLISTS (LEFT TO RIGHT)

Mr. Jehan Perera, Executive Director, National Peace Centre (Sri Lanka)

Mr. Sajedul Hasan, Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre

Ms. Urvashi Aneja, Associate Professor, Jindal School of Public Affairs, Jindal University (India)

Mr. Chevaan Daniel, Group Director, The Capital Maharaja Organization Ltd. (Sri Lanka)

PANEL SUMMARY The plenary disaster workshop panel opened with one panellist emphasizing the importance of adopting a peace-building perspective in the context of responding to natural disasters in conflict-affected and post-conflict settings. On the one hand, disasters could lead to conflict within communities, while on the other, periods of crisis also provided opportunities for expressions of solidarity and relationship building.

It was noted that investment in preparedness needed to be seen as a long-term commitment that necessarily involved a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach. Within that, preparedness needed to start with the local community. A panellist elaborated that preparedness investments at present were still very modest and advocated that a more strategic approach was needed to ensure sustained support.

It was highlighted that the global South referred to disaster management and development cooperation instead of humanitarianism and suggested that the common perception of the latter was often used as a Western economic and political tool. This underscored a vein of distrust in the system. Humanitarians needed to be sensitive to the trust gap and make disaster management more holistic, drawing upon the characteristics of South-South cooperation such as open communication, willingness to share and respect for diversity. Regional organizations also were seen to have a larger role to play in future, as would the new development and infrastructure banks that had been established in the global South.

It was seen to be important that for so-called 'non-traditional' actors such as the private sector, the only stakeholders in disaster response were the affected communities themselves. Businesses became involved in disaster response from a desire to make an immediate impact on people's lives and media also had an important role to play. These different motivations and objectives would be considered in the breakout session on how to better engage all stakeholders.

Following the panel, participants joined one of six breakout group sessions summarized below.

> **"If people themselves are not prepared for disasters, we cannot push governments to prepare something for us."**
>
> *Participant quote*

Please note that all photos displayed in the following workshop sections of the final report were taken during the WHS Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia, at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe, but may not correspond to the breakout sessions within each workshop.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN DISASTERS

A | PRACTICAL STEPS TO COLLECTIVELY OPERATIONALIZE THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Expertise must be made available for countries with limited capacities and resources to operationalize the Sendai framework;

Roles and actions should be scaled-up for disabled people and ethnic minorities as partners in disaster preparedness and response;

Media should be encouraged to educate future decision makers (youth) on disaster risk awareness;

The implementation of Sendai, e.g., a common multi-hazard risk analysis, needs to be contextualized and based on considerations of culture, rural/urban and conflict setting;

Faith-based consortia need to be recognized as an asset for coordination in disaster preparedness and response;

The private sector should be recognized as a viable partner to secure financing for future risks, in particular for slow-onset disasters;

Joint regional agreements (e.g. providing social safety nets) must be established for disaster-induced cross-border displacement.

Discussion summary

Discussions began with a call by participants for expertise to be made available to support countries with limited capacities and resources to operationalize the Sendai Framework. The implementation of the Sendai Framework was seen by participants to still be very limited in this region and the need to move beyond legislation was highlighted. Participants raised concerns around how to go about translating legislation into concrete plans with subsequent monitoring and evaluation. Some participants believed that this should solely be the responsibility of government, while others argued for an increased role of other actors, including academia.

Participants noted that the international community should be practical about the implementation of the Sendai Framework in these countries, and realistic in setting targets. It was agreed that, being a guidance framework, the Sendai Framework should be adapted to the national context and that it was not sufficient to have commitment and financial resources at national level: local governments and communities also needed tools, mechanisms and knowledge to act. Overall, the Sendai Framework was seen by participants as very high-level, whereas the disaster context in countries was dynamic and institutional learning was often lacking. Participants stated the importance of educating local populations regarding disaster risk reduction and highlighted that the raising public awareness and disaster education had not been seriously implemented in much of the region.

Participants discussed the capacity of different community groups and members of society. A suggestion was put forward to scale-up roles and opportunities for people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, women and children as active partners in disaster preparedness and response. There was also a call to strengthen emergency response volunteer groups in the region.

The importance of empowering youth as a stakeholder group was also highlighted and it was suggested this could be achieved by raising awareness among youth on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. Opportunities to engage youth should be developed in a sustainable manner, not as one-off projects. Participants advocated to engage media and utilize the variety of existing online forums where youth came together to enable their capacity and voice; however, there was disagreement as to whether educating youth on disaster risk management was the governments' responsibility or a collective responsibility.

The inclusion of psychosocial support in disaster response was raised as a critical issue. Examples were provided of mobile rehabilitation centres employing psychologists and enhanced cooperation between governments and international organizations in providing combined psychosocial and medical aid.

A proposal was put forward to recognize faith-based consortia as partners in coordination of disaster preparedness and response. In the past there had been instances of beneficiaries avoiding assistance from faith-based organizations out of fear of religious conversion, but over the past few years faith-based organizations had addressed such concerns and secured trust through forming consortia of multiple organizations from different faiths. These consortia had established coordination mechanisms through which they supported people in the same locality, with a shared agenda, without duplicating efforts. Other humanitarian actors should engage with these consortia.

Discussions highlighted the uniqueness of the context in different countries in the region, including culture, conflict sensitivity and rural vs. urban settings. An example was presented on the different organisational culture in the countries of Central Asia compared to South Asia, which affected structures and activities related to disaster management. The importance of conflict sensitivity was illustrated by an example from a South Asian post-conflict setting and the subsequent challenges posed to disaster risk management planning. In-country differences between people living in rural and urban settings were also discussed as influencing disaster risk reduction work; particularly when people moved from one setting to another. There was strong awareness of the need for governments to analyse the different requirements of different settings to contextualise their approaches to implementing the Sendai Framework.

Participants highlighted that it was challenging to secure funding for slow-onset disasters, as traditional contingency funds were only available for rapid-onset disasters. Many countries relied on external funding for response to slow-onset disasters and mitigation of future risks. New actors, such as the private sector, should be engaged as partners in securing financing for disaster risk reduction; however some participants cautioned that laws would need to be adjusted to make this possible.

Participants acknowledged the need to reduce the division between humanitarian and development assistance, and discussed how meeting the needs of vulnerable people and building sustainable societies could be a starting point. One participant suggested an integrated approach should begin with collection and utilization of baseline data disaggregated by gender. Shared data should

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be used in common multi-hazard risk analyses and to ensure good quality analysis, participants emphasized the importance of engaging local communities and increasing local capacity. Some participants believed that common execution of risk analysis was the most crucial part, while others argued that common usage of the analysis was more important. Governments were called on to move this recommendation forward with support from other stakeholders.

The establishment of joint regional agreements – for example to provide social safety nets – was considered by the group as a viable option to prepare for disaster-induced cross-border displacement. Participants discussed the often trans-boundary impact of disasters, noting the need for countries to include cross-border displacement in their contingency plans. There was a further call to recognize the value of regional mechanisms and structures for disaster preparedness and response. Participants cited several projects that were underway or were being considered, such as a regional emergency warehouse to prepare for and support disaster response in Central Asian countries, and a regional centre for the analysis and assessment of disaster risks associated with climate change. Also discussed was the importance of establishing monitoring stations and early warning systems in the region; however agreement was not reached on whether there should be one common system for the region or separate country-based systems.

B DISASTER RESPONSE IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Disaster response in conflict or post-conflict settings can potentially contribute to conflict resolution at the local level, creating an opportunity for enhanced engagement with the community and parties to a conflict, but great care must be taken not to exacerbate existing tensions and conflict.

There should be common standards for the engagement of both humanitarian and peace-building actors in disaster response in conflict and post-conflict settings based on humanitarian principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence, the principle of do no harm, and human rights standards.

Different organizations have unique comparative advantages and abilities to respond to disasters in conflict and post-conflict settings. These depend on different factors including existing presence and capacity, knowledge of the local context, acceptance by local community, relationships with parties to the conflict, mandate and substantive expertise. Accordingly, complementarity of functions and coordination should be promoted amongst diverse actors.

Linkages and dialogue should be strengthened between disaster and conflict management actors when conducting risk analysis, engaging in preparedness work, and responding. Both spheres of emergency management could benefit from greater cross-fertilization.

Response should be protection-focused, taking into account the diverse needs of affected persons and the capacities of the community.

Discussion Summary

At the outset, the importance of neutrality in humanitarian response was highlighted in the discussion, with fairly unanimous agreement among participants that humanitarians did not have a role in conflict mediation. Therefore, they should not engage in related negotiations, which could be seen as compromising neutrality and/or impartiality. Humanitarians were seen to have an indirect role in conflict mediation and negotiations, however, centred on provision of information on humanitarian issues to mediators, who could use this to positively contribute to peace-building or mediation processes.

Some participants highlighted examples from the region of situations in which the occurrence of natural disaster in a conflict setting constituted a pivotal moment of change and opportunity to promote peace-making. At least three such examples in which a natural disaster reduced tension or stopped fighting were highlighted by participants.

The group exchanged points of view on the best way to deliver assistance so as to mitigate the risk of conflict or help to resolve it. General consensus was reached that communities benefited most from coordination between humanitarian action and conflict resolution at the community level. Further discussion focused on tactical and operational approaches to how humanitarian interventions could positively impact local conflict issues. For example, the suggestion was put forward that community water management projects could help to prevent conflict over water and/or help resolve existing conflicts.

In discussing ways for humanitarians to strengthen local cohesion through the delivery of assistance, a number of participants underscored the importance of community-based approaches to distributing assistance. Some noted the challenges caused by how services were often funded and provided only to displaced persons and not host communities, which made application of community-based approaches challenging. A proposal was put forward to advocate for the routine extension of humanitarian funding to cover community-based activities. As a successful example of how this could work, one participant noted a case in which a number of IDPs, driven out of their homes by a natural disaster, had occupied school buildings. This resulted in tensions between the displaced and host community; however, the timely provision of funding and assistance for children to go back to school significantly decreased existing tensions and prevented new ones. Another participant noted agreements with a donor that provided for 80 percent of services to go to the displaced and the rest to support host communities.

Discussion continued around how to advocate for community-based approaches to distribution of assistance, which were seen as supporting social cohesion and avoiding the fueling of new tensions. One of the challenges discussed was securing funding for activities in areas with restricted or denied access. Due to the various political agendas of donors and the attitude of communities towards them, there was a suggestion that knowing where money came from could jeopardize perceptions of neutral and independent humanitarian action no matter how good an organization was at

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delivering services to those in need. An alternate perspective held that how an organization positioned itself was more important than where the money came from. Participants generally agreed on the necessity of adhering to and promoting the principles of neutrality and impartiality to generate trust and acceptance among affected communities and allow humanitarian operations to proceed. The importance of perception should not be underestimated; humanitarian leaders needed to ensure the correct positioning of their respective agencies. Standards to this end should be put in place for in-country humanitarian leadership.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of comprehensive conflict analysis, including an understanding of power dynamics at community level, as a pre-requisite for interventions. Disaster managers often worked in isolation from peace-builders and did not access their comprehensive conflict analyses. They should include a thorough analysis of conflict dynamics in their risk assessments, while peace-builders should consider the implications of disasters when conducting their conflict analysis. Based on such combined analyses, relevant modifications could be applied to the provision of assistance – at a minimum according to the principle of do no harm and at maximum to support social cohesion at the local level through community-based assistance.

The group agreed that organizations already operating in the area as part of the conflict response were best positioned to coordinate and/or lead in disaster response, with the preferred role in such cases being coordination. To identify such well-positioned organizations, criteria were discussed including: proximity to the disaster zone; understanding of the conflict context; operational capacity/expertise; and established relationships with parties to the conflict. The majority of participants agreed that such an approach would help to minimize the potential negative impact on conflict dynamics of disaster assistance and support the do no harm principle.

The foregoing discussion continued into one on how international actors should support the capacity development of local actors, particularly in the areas of protection and access. Among possible

approaches the group identified organizing training programmes at schools, building the capacity of religious institutions, and looking at ways of mobilizing local capacity, including through the adoption of supportive legal frameworks. Some participants, however, argued that communities knew much better than humanitarian actors how to respond and that rather than education-oriented capacity building, the focus should be on strengthening the financial and logistical capacity of local actors.

There was little agreement on how best to assist affected communities in areas controlled by non-state armed groups. One perspective advocated giving the responsibility for aid distributions directly to affected communities in areas where access was denied, while another argued that this was impractical as the line between civilians and combatants in such areas was often blurred. The all-to-frequent practice of non-state actors in demanding to be responsible for distributing assistance themselves or receiving a portion of the assistance provided was also flagged. Despite these complexities, it was important to assist civilians, particularly women and children and even if they had relationships with combatants, argued another, stressing the importance of protection and needs-based response. In the end, the group agreed that the modality for aid provision in such circumstances should be decided on a case-by-case basis, taking into account conflict dynamics and the needs of affected communities.

In areas of restricted access, comprehensive country-level access strategies should be developed to guide humanitarian actors on how to assist affected people and communities on how to safely reach out to humanitarian actors. The centrality of protection was confirmed by the group, particularly with regard to recognizing the different needs of diverse people within and between communities. The group agreed that any community-based approach should take into account community capacities. Protection and rights-based approaches should also focus on delivering assistance in a way that supported the safety and security of aid workers.

Recognizing the roles different actors played in advocacy, capacity building, assessments and service provision in conflict settings, one participant reiterated the importance of how each organization positioned itself and called for promotion of clarity and transparency among stakeholders to stop bringing confusion to the term 'humanitarian'.

One participant suggested there was a need to work within international legal frameworks to incorporate disaster response into conflict management practices and ensure better protection by obligating governments and parties to a conflict to respect international law and principles. This led to a brief exchange of differing views on the subject, including reference to the challenges of amending related international law. Efforts were made every year to reinforce international humanitarian law (IHL) and the law of war to try to ensure that parties to conflict respected these and provided protection to non-combatants, civilian populations and communities.

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C **CONVERTING PREPAREDNESS INVESTMENTS INTO BETTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Governments and humanitarian organizations should adopt a "whole of society approach" to preparedness, recognizing the diversity of communities and the need to work with multiple actors including schools, local government, CSOs, private companies, media and others, and linking local, sub-national and national systems.

Social protection/safety nets should be linked to response and recovery efforts with better understanding of cash and financial inclusion.

Better integrate preparedness, response and early recovery planning into one process, and always include funding for early recovery as an integrated part of emergency appeals.

Develop emergency operations centres to include knowledge management and better tracking of capacity-building investments, by developing data-bases of people trained on critical skills.

Strengthen linkages between academia and practitioners through building a strong evidence-base around disaster preparedness, including better mapping of the long-term economic value of preparedness investments for governments and private sector.

Strengthen the capacity of national response systems on animal disaster management for rural areas to protect livelihoods.

To specifically address the risks of mega-disasters, find alternative sources of funding, such as from international financial institutions and including the new infrastructure banks, for critical large scale-investments, such as sea-walls, relocating airports or other activities with major impact.

Discussion Summary

Participants confirmed the importance of preparedness for disaster response, yet recognized there was still much work to be done in relation to securing preparedness investments and creating greater community awareness. Some shared a concern that many countries within Central Asia were still operating with post-Soviet systems and that despite growing understanding of the importance of investing in preparedness, recovery back to previous functionality was often the priority. As one participant underscored, some conflict-affected countries in the region were still trying to recover back to their pre-conflict development state, making investment in disaster preparedness challenging.

Participants discussed the importance of preparedness at local and national levels and also the importance of national governments being prepared to both ask for and receive international response and support. Where the Cluster System had already been established, pre-disaster actors were better prepared because they knew each other and had participated in simulation exercises together, resulting in better coordination. Anecdotal examples were given of how investment in preparedness facilitated better recovery and response, yet there was still a lack

of clear data evidence that demonstrated this due to blurring of the humanitarian/development divide. Overall, participants recognized that disaster management could be better linked with development, and suggested that preparedness, response and early recovery efforts should be better integrated into one process.

The role of state/provincial-level disaster response forces in creating awareness within communities was highlighted, with a proposal that centralized emergency centres should be established to help such entities with information sharing and coordination. These would help to capture lessons learned from response and feed them back to preparedness and planning.

The role of academia in preparedness was emphasized, with one community representative noting that research needed to be more available to educators. Good research would facilitate capacity-building through sharing of lessons learned based on evidence and scientific data. Academia had a particularly important role to play in assisting humanitarian practitioners to build a strong evidence-base around disaster preparedness, including better mapping of the long term economic value of preparedness investments, in partnership with governments and the private sector.

The discussion on education also highlighted several concerns on the lack of mentoring and support for teachers. One participant stressed the near complete lack of materials for disabled or special needs children; however, the group did not identify any proposals to redress this.

Another point of concern was that local communities would not be able to act without preparedness information and early warning, with the group agreeing that early-warning systems were the cheapest way to save lives. There was a need for greater investment in preparedness technology, such as the development of early warning and mapping systems. Being able to warn communities at risk through SMS was seen as highly effective. However, SMS warning systems were not flawless, as certain types of natural disaster could affect mobile network coverage. Overall, participants were of the view that SMS warnings encouraged information sharing and resulted in stronger response.

Finally, participants agreed on the importance of knowledge sharing, and particularly the value of learning from indigenous knowledge of disaster preparedness. For example, local safety nets could be adapted in developing community-based disaster awareness programmes. Knowledge-sharing practices should utilize a whole-of-society approach, while at the same time being context-specific. An example put forward indicated that national disaster response systems should be strengthened to include animal disaster management for rural communities, as the ability to recover rural livelihoods post-disaster depended on the protection of animals.

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D ADAPTING TO SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND REGIONALLY-LED RESPONSES

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Reform existing humanitarian governance systems to reflect shifts in the global balance of power and make the system more universal: countries from the global South need to be involved decision-making and leadership roles.

Recalibrate how aid contributions of countries are calculated to include national resources and investments; these should include consideration of national / community resources spent on refugee hosting and attitudes towards refugees hosting.

Do away with concept of capacity building. Replace it with knowledge sharing and/or training. Put emphasis on this being a mutual, two-way process.

UN and donors should allocate resources towards building and strengthening regional NGO/CSO networks.

Discussion Summary

At the start of the session, the participants shared their experiences with South-South Cooperation; examples given included networks of NGOs within and between countries and initiatives to develop cross-border early warning systems.

The discussion was framed in terms of the emergence within the region of institutions, legislation and supporting mechanisms that strengthened South-South Cooperation. The commitment of countries in the region to establishing national disaster management capacity was highlighted, with the suggestion that this was partially motivated by rising mistrust of the international aid system in some countries. The group agreed that aid was clearly not perceived as neutral and suggested that it was unrealistic to expect the humanitarian system to ever actually be fully impartial.

The facilitators suggested that current notions of humanitarianism were primarily western and northern in origin, and hypocritical when it came to upholding the humanitarian principles. The application of the humanitarian principles was always loaded; transparently admitting this would allow discussions to move forward. The continuing influence of the past on the humanitarian system was problematic as the system continued to reflect and emphasize historical events and structures that were no longer relevant. The current system should be replaced by a new universal system that reflected current and future realities and worked for everybody.

Discussions ranged widely and were not limited to the specific topic of the session. A lengthy discussion on dysfunction in the international governance architecture, particularly the UN Security Council, led to agreement that a statement on this point should be recommended for inclusion in the Chair's Summary. The group also agreed to request the WHS to make a clear and bold statement about the extent to which change could be driven from within the system, rather than by external factors over which the Summit process had less / no control. The Northern bias in the assignment of high-level positions within the UN was also

discussed, in particular why the global head of OCHA always had to be British and the head of UNICEF had to be from the United States. Noting that this issue had been repeatedly flagged in international forums, it was suggested that changing this practice would be a simple step that UN Member States could take to large effect.

The impact and importance of the language used by humanitarianism was discussed, with the argument put forward that the term "capacity building" had become a patronising phrase that ensured power remained entrenched in the global North. Participants expressed a preference for avoiding this blanket term and being more specific, with particular suggestion to use the terms 'training' and 'knowledge-sharing' where appropriate instead. Participants highlighted the need to ensure that local voices and experiences did not get lost when looking at strengthening South-South Cooperation and engagement. It was further highlighted that 'capacity building' almost always referred to organizational capacities and not to those of affected people themselves. Participants discussed the importance of 'self-reliance' and that local governments should be responsible for implementing humanitarian programmes.

Participants also stressed that operational knowledge should be a key factor in influencing policy discussions. While some governments had begun to listen more closely to operational organizations, they were still not being taken seriously regularly enough. Increased government support was critical, and participants said there was a need to find tools and instruments that could be used to apply pressure on governments, referring to this as 'humanitarian diplomacy'. However, at least one government representative pushed back noting the sovereignty of national governments, while conceding that this argument should not be misused.

There was considerable discussion on donor behaviour and how to flatten power imbalances between aid provider and recipient. The donor community was referred to by one participant as having become an 'elite club', with a call to the group to think

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of mechanisms to kick-start power changes and better enable real collaboration. Opinions were strong in the group regarding how changing power dynamics were leading to prejudice and impacting the humanitarian landscape. All actors needed to admit their failings, regardless of whether from the global North or South. There was agreement amongst the group that South-South Cooperation needed to be "owned" by southern states and institutions, but that donors should lend their support to making this a reality in ways other than by simply pushing for more capacity building. The question was raised as to whether the OCHA Donor Support Group was fit for purpose, with some of the largest countries in the region preferring to see themselves and their interactions with multilateral agencies as those of partnership, rather than donors. Changing the nature and dynamics of the group to one better reflective of the global order and less of an elite de-facto governance board for OCHA was proposed as a potential "quick win" for OCHA.

The way aid was calculated was seen by the group to be a major issue. The example was given that some countries in the region hosted millions of refugees but the cost of this had never been calculated as an aid contribution. Increased spending on humanitarian response by middle-income countries was not being captured, with government reporting standards generally unable to accurately account for this. In particular, valuing and recording the financial contributions associated with locally-based response needed to be prioritized as part of the localization of preparedness and response. The Financial Tracking System should not just reference what assistance came into a country from outside, but also what was leveraged to support response within the country. On a related note, there was a lack of proper systems to track funds post-disaster. When funding could not be tracked properly, it caused trust issues on both the donor and recipient sides.

Trust was clearly seen as lacking throughout the region, which could be due to lack of communication and lack of shared understanding, particularly of the 'spoken language' of the humanitarian world. Some members of the group focused on the need to use local and regional networks to build more trust; others proposed to "forget about trust as we will always mistrust each other", and suggested that processes should focus on changing operations to create a system that generated trust. It was also suggested that people often lacked trust in their governments, and international organizations, because they were affiliated with governments.

More robust methodologies were needed to evaluate humanitarian aid and government response, and the private sector could contribute usefully to the design of accounting and evaluation methodologies. There was a need to move beyond a simplistic dollar value calculation of aid towards qualitative measures. As the discussions turned, the private sector was seen as an area of as-yet untapped funding. Leveraging taxes to fund response was also discussed, with particular focus on those lost by developing countries due to shifting tax bases. One suggestion was for taxes to be used to create a disaster preparedness fund for use in the global South along the lines of the carbon tax. Forwarding of a recommendation on use of taxes to support disaster preparedness was not fully supported by the group, however.

The discussion turned to whether international humanitarian action was still actually needed in disaster response, with a consensus view that it was still required, but that international organizations should renew their objective of "working themselves out of a job". While some members felt that humanitarian work should explicitly prevent creating career opportunities for international staff, but be focused on developing skilled and effective local and regional people, others flagged the lack of continuity in international staffing as a concern, as the people who responded to previous crises had often moved on to another crisis in another country too soon. Another member said that reliance on the UN was built up because of UN staff mobility and access privileges, arguing that what was needed in the global South was shared staff training and capability building. Experts could be mobile and based in the field rather than at headquarters to keep knowledge moving around the regions.

Highlighting the value of collaboration in the reconstruction and rebuilding phase, where many different types of partner were involved, participants suggested that stakeholders needed to learn from each other how to strengthen South-South Cooperation in the region. One government representative suggested that where military cooperation between neighbours was limited, collaboration between national and regional NGOs based in the two countries would be a preferred alternative to relying on armed forces to act during a disaster.

Finally, while it might not be the place of humanitarian actors to make political decisions, they could at least advocate for change in the political decision-making process. The group agreed that there was an inverse relationship between the level of corruption in a country and a government's capacity for disaster preparedness and response.

Although most of the discussion focused on South-South cooperation, there was also some discussion on regional organizations. Overall, concern was expressed as to the capacity and strategic vision of regional organizations, although some participants argued that regional organizations were crucial and that, within their halls, decisions really mattered. Another suggestion was to use regional cooperation to link national databases, which was something that participants said OCHA should help to facilitate in partnership with regional NGOs, UN agencies and governments.

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E ENGAGING ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN DISASTER RESPONSE

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Invest in innovative pre-crisis funding mechanisms that reflect a more inclusive and realistic approach to access by international and national stakeholders. These funding mechanisms should take into account disaster risk reduction, resilience and response and allow direct access to funding by the majority of stakeholders.

Establish a proactive funding mechanism suitable for preparedness and adequate for relief needs during disaster response. IASC agencies could be responsible for initiating the process and enabling access for governments and CSOs.

Invest in common community engagement and monitoring and evaluation approaches to help all stakeholders in humanitarian response to be more accountable. This should ensure all stakeholders effectively use community-based feedback, ensuring the overall response is demand-driven, not supply-driven, and outcome-based.

Build on existing good practice for accountability mechanisms to develop a process that enables affected people to communicate with humanitarian actors. In order to ensure community priorities are driving the response; the mechanism must have "whole of system" character, covering government, private sector and national and international agencies.

Humanitarian messaging should be clearly communicated to various stakeholders, particularly emerging partners such as youth and the private sector, so they understand the terminology and engage with the message.

Understanding the limitations of current information management tools, the means and mediums used to share humanitarian information should be re-worked. This would better enable communications to engage a multitude of stakeholders around a single message.

Discussion Summary

Participants recognized that collective approaches were needed to achieve collective impacts and that in the aftermath of disaster many stakeholders, including diaspora, youth, faith-based CSOs and the private sector were present with different voices and views. All stakeholders had a role in response, with each bringing different skills to the table: humanitarian actors needed to work with all partners. It was important to understand the mind-set and intentions of all partners to allow each to properly provide support. An example was given of one country in the region where many stakeholders had been engaged to help develop early warning systems, community radio, cyclone shelters and other facilities. Bringing diverse stakeholders together for these projects had been challenging, and there was a need to develop better systems for collaboration. Part of this should involve asking and mapping the response to questions about who different stakeholders were and identifying their roles before, during and after a disaster.

Participants highlighted the importance of remembering that affected communities were not only beneficiaries, but also key stakeholders. The impacts of humanitarian work could be achieved in partnership with government, but the needs of the community should always be prioritized. Participants noted that disaster risk reduction work was often focused at the national level, not the village level, and suggested this hindered effectiveness.

In discussing funding for preparedness, participants agreed it was easier to raise money during a response than for preparedness. On the other hand, donor fatigue with emergency funding was also flagged, highlighting the importance of finding sources of funding for preparedness. International agencies should advocate for the high payoff of preparedness financing, particularly as an investment to save lives. The private sector should also repackage the concept of corporate social responsibility to emphasize preparedness funding.

Participants discussed the role of governments in funding coordination and preparedness, taking a strong view that governments should commit funding for these and that they should be backed by intergovernmental agreements. Conditionality in donor funding and earmarking of funds was also seen as a problem, with a call for more flexibility in funding to meet the needs of affected communities. Flexibility of funding for partnerships was also seen as necessary to break down the artificial humanitarian-development divide. The group agreed that partnerships between stakeholders and a collective approach would help avoid fighting for the same basket of money and enable greater accountability.

The question was raised as to how to engage stakeholders in preparedness planning, with the suggestion to focus on improved communication by utilizing social media and technology to exchange information and to ask for feedback from communities on service/product delivery. The importance of feedback mechanisms was discussed, not only as a way to receive complaints but also as a way to share information, with the recognition that youth in particular had a critical voice and understanding of the use of technology.

Communication with different stakeholders was raised as an area of concern, particularly the need to use clear language tailored to engage different stakeholders – and particularly non-traditional actors such as youth and the private sector – using 'the language they speak'. Many traditional humanitarian information products were not relevant to actors outside the IASC system. Moreover, the level of mistrust and miscommunication between humanitarian actors remained high, with participants calling for efforts to strengthen relationships and improve transparency and accountability between stakeholder groups.

Participants agreed that engagement with stakeholders should begin early and take place regularly and that it was important to conduct a capacity assessment prior to response rather than rely on situation reports. Organizations that did this had coordination frameworks and guidelines that allowed them to work with all stakeholders, including local government on the understanding that if people were prepared, the need for intervention should be minimal.

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The use of different coordination tools by different agencies often confused governments, who recommended that such tools be harmonized and focus on converting information into action through clearer lines of engagement and information sharing. Stakeholder platforms should be made more visible and effective in order to utilize them in humanitarian response.

Some participants suggested that capacity assessments and community mapping were key coordination tools that could be used to build partnerships between different stakeholders, with sharing of information helping build trust with affected communities. Other participants suggested there was no need for community mapping and instead the focus should be to create a system to engage with communities.

Finally, participants recommended that UN agencies and INGOs agencies should move from acting as donors to acting as partners or collaborators. Feedback mechanisms for partners should be put in place in order to bring more accountability and improve the quality of service. Response should be monitored using a demand-driven, outcome-based approach, not just by measuring outputs or deliverables. Regular stakeholder analysis was seen as necessary to review shared capacity and strengthen collaboration mechanisms.

F MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RESPONSE IN GENDER PROGRAMMING

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

States should create policies that enable women and provide them with jobs, economic opportunities and choices, including by enhancing women's entrepreneurship skills and access to banking facilities and markets for income generation.

Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure women's participation in elections and decision-making forums, particularly among crisis-affected populations.

A minimum standard of service provision for women should be guaranteed, not only in their ordinary lives, but also during/ after disasters. Service delivery should be ensured from the community's side and from specialized institutions.

A prioritized referral system should be in place with regard to services for women.

In order to ensure safe transportation for women affected by crisis, young women should be motivated to learn to drive and receive driving licences.

Local authorities should be involved in and fully responsible for protection of the lives of women and children in crisis situations.

Lists of most vulnerable population should be available, updated, and provided to humanitarian actors in emergency situations.

Vocational training/education for young women should be prioritized to provide skills for income generation and help reduce labour exploitation/discrimination.

Local governance and security institutions should be sensitized to protect affected women during disasters.

Women from vulnerable groups should be fully involved in humanitarian action.

Watchdog functions should be strengthened, respected and applied during disasters to ensure the accountability of state and non-state actors providing humanitarian assistance.

Media should be responsible for the delivery of free services to keep women informed.

Discussion Summary

Discussion in this breakout group was framed in the context of two ways of viewing the relationship between gender and humanitarian action in disaster settings. The facilitator called on participants to think about recommendations on (i) how gender aspects should be efficiently integrated into disaster risk reduction, and (ii) how humanitarian action could be strengthened through existing gender programming.

Even when a whole community was affected by disaster, different groups had specific needs and priorities. Evidence showed that the death rate of women and girls in disaster was disproportionally higher than that of men and boys. Women who stayed at home taking care of their families could often be trapped in their houses during disasters. During and after disasters there was increased risk of forced / child marriage, gender based violence and trafficking of women and girls.

The importance of using correct language was highlighted, particularly that women should be specifically recognized as active agents of change not merely victims and beneficiaries. This meant ensuring women were part of the entire planning process, including development of norms and standards on humanitarian assistance and prioritizing the participation and contributions of women at all stages of disaster management. Throughout, the discussion repeatedly highlighted that women and children were the most vulnerable in disaster contexts, and that refugees were predominantly women and children.

A large part of the discussion focused on capacity building and awareness raising among public policymakers and women themselves, with the recommendation that women should help to develop policy and strategies for addressing women's needs. It was suggested that institutions needed to put in place measures to ensure women had access to decision making, particularly in regards to participation in elections. A specific focus for humanitarian actors should be to ensure leadership roles were played by women; women's place in the leadership would not be accepted without advocacy. Communication campaigns targeting households were proposed as a way to build the confidence of communities in women leaders. To effectively exercise this leading role, women needed to be protected from abuse and violence.

Access to services, especially for specific groups of women (i.e. disabled, rural, pregnant, etc.) was also a common theme that emerged. For instance, disabled women should be provided with special protection during disaster as there was double discrimination against them. Training on how to provide assistance and emergency support to people with disabilities

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should be provided to rescue teams. The group discussed that during preparedness, response and recovery there was need for appropriate communication materials and channels for communicating with people with disability, particularly those hearing or vision impaired. Many participants raised the need to focus on the vulnerabilities of other groups as well as women.

The setting was seen as critical in determining access to services: refugees living in camps were often provided with all necessary supplies, whereas those outside camps were not able to access a full package of services. The impact of limited mobility was raised as a key factor in increased vulnerability of women. This was initially raised in the context of limited use of vehicles by women and extended in discussion to reflect the fact that many women in the region were not allowed free movement even in crisis situations.

Participants flagged the need for humanitarian actors to also consider the psychological aspect of disasters, particularly for women who tended to bear a heavy burden of emotion and responsibility. Women's CSOs and UN agencies work together to help rural women and girls prepare psychologically for natural disasters.

Some participants noted the need to recognize that achieving gender equality was the state's responsibility, and that governments should provide training to communities and stakeholders to build their capacities. Others suggested that affirmative action would help to ensure equal participation of women, including though the use of quotas for participation in government and leadership, and proposed that ensuring women's participation before disasters would be a key determinant of women's participation in leadership during disasters.

Annual local development plans should be sensitized to address women's needs before and during critical situations: some NGOs stated that on-going work in this regard received limited funding. As a result, separate funding should be made available to humanitarian actors to work with women at local/community level. Overall, comments repeatedly reflected the importance of focusing on women's resilience and ensuring implementation of strategies. Many 'nice papers' had been written but not implemented. The role of NGOs in ensuring proper implementation was also stressed, particularly the fact that local women's NGOs had existing watchdog functions to ensure the state's accountability and that these should be strengthened and adapted to be applied in disaster settings.

Prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and trafficking was a critical concern for participants, who stressed that all affected women and children should be provided with special protection and that governments should put in place the necessary regulations or arrangements to provide this. For migrants and refugees, even if the receiving country provided the necessary assistance, there was still a need for targeted / specialized protection focused on women and children. Governments should raise awareness within local security structures and provide training on addressing gender vulnerabilities to ensure sufficient protection of women during disasters. The protection of land and other property rights for women after disasters was also raised as an issue: even if property

rights were equal before a disaster, after post-crisis the situation often changed. Participants highlighted the particular need to educate men involved in policing and legal work with focus on a necessary change of mentality among men in these institutions to ensure women and children were protected.

Several participants proposed that the reproductive health of women should be prioritized in humanitarian action, particularly in terms of training emergency services responders on how to help women giving birth in emergencies. During a crisis women often did not feel safe to access maternity wards. In these times there was very limited information about what happened to those mothers and babies. Community education would help women and their communities learn how to support safe birth during emergency situations.

The need for accurate, gender disaggregated data collection and analysis as part of disaster preparedness was raised and agreed repeatedly. When assessments were conducted by local institutions, data should wherever possible be made available to humanitarian actors, including international actors. The need for policy makers to use gender disaggregated data to address gender related vulnerabilities within their policies was also raised.

One participant noted that technology in the region was controlled by men and focused towards men, with the suggestion that it should instead become women-centric and accessible to all women. This was reiterated by another participant in regard to communication and the role of mass media, who suggested that media outlets should create programming to spread information on these issues.

It was specifically suggested that within governments there was a need to create greater awareness and understanding on women's issues. This was seen as true for both gender equality and equity. Different training should be provided to different stakeholders to build their capacity. Finally, women should not forget to work with men and to continue to educate men in order to improve their understanding of gender issues

A boy looks up at soldiers in Afghanistan.

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FACILITATOR

Mr. Rashid Khalikov,
Director, OCHA Geneva

PANELLISTS (LEFT TO RIGHT)

Mr. Anoop Sukumaran, Director, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network

Mr. Amjad Saleem, Independent Consultant on Humanitarian Affairs and Peace-building (Sri Lanka)

Ms. Sema Karaosmanoğlu, Executive Director, Support to Life (Turkey)

PANEL SUMMARY The panel opened with recognition that conflict was by nature exclusionary and complex; it forced people to take sides, challenging fundamental humanitarian principles. Humanitarians frequently worked with people who had fled conflict, but many were trapped without the resources to leave the conflict area. Humanitarian actors also needed to focus on assisting them. Communities could be in conflict within themselves, creating extra challenges for the provision of support. In terms of how to work in such contexts, it was important to realise that while assessment was important, existing assessment tools were often inappropriate and did not fully capture reality on the ground. Communities had their own coping mechanisms and could work together to respond to their own needs. Humanitarian actors should recognize this and work with communities through their existing mechanisms, rather than imposing others. Throughout, protection should be central to humanitarian action as vulnerability was acute in conflict, and people risked being de-humanized. Moreover, conflict affected communities should be seen a partners with whom one talked, not beneficiaries who one informed.

New and non-traditional actors entering the field of humanitarian action brought different value systems into play; this diversity could be challenging to the coordination of collective efforts. One way to build a basis for collective action was to move away from the conventional needs-based approach toward a rights-based approach, strengthening collective understanding as to people's entitlement to rights and facilitating access to services. In this regard, protection was seen to be an advocacy priority; establishing a protection framework was critical. Creating an enabling environment for civil society at national level meant overcoming trust issues with government, and ensuring that a supportive legal framework recognised CSOs as legitimate actors. There was also scope to look at affirmative action measures, including the establishment of quotas and benchmarks for the involvement of local actors. Another area in which collective action was required

was funding: there was a need to invest in the anticipating, preventing and mitigating conflict. Where conflict did take place, planning and funding was required to support repatriation and options for resettlement, as well as promoting social cohesion in protracted situations.

Conflict did not lend itself to quick fixes: a concerted focus on peace-building and trust creation was required to continue delivering assistance where there was denial of access. Among the key issues for consideration, protection and making people safer required remembering the obligation of governments to protect civilians, and clarifying the responsibilities of other actors. The concept of protection and related definition(s) needed to be demystified and space carved out to encompass efforts focused on trust-building to create safety, well-being, livelihoods and the rule of law. Clarity was required on different roles in peace-building: there was confusion on the differences between peace-making and peace-keeping. In general, humanitarians were not peace actors and not well skilled in this role, but their assistance could reinforce the role of experienced peace actors. What was needed was to build trust without compromising principles and share resources and best practices.

Asked about accountability and feedback mechanisms, the panellists highlighted the need to take into account the preferences and perspectives of affected populations, avoid only communal feedback mechanisms, and consider multi-sectoral feedback mechanisms. One example of the latter was that mental health practitioners had received feedback on shelter, provision of non-food items, and other material assistance from the affected community members they were counselling. Accountability and feedback mechanisms should look at how services were accessed at the individual level. Moreover, rule of law and justice, power dynamics, and politicization of issues should be taken into consideration. Better processes for capturing lessons learnt and sharing were also needed, with the suggestion that academia could help to develop mechanisms.

Please note that all photos displayed in the following workshop sections of the final report were taken during the WHS Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia, at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe, but may not correspond to the breakout sessions within each workshop.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN CONFLICT

A HEEDING THE VOICES AND CHOICES OF AFFECTED PEOPLE IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Private sector and media should support humanitarian action in conflict contexts by enabling affected communities to have access to ICT infrastructure to facilitate communication of their needs in a principled manner.

Organizations should invest in the human and financial resources to develop effective ways of communicating with communities in conflict contexts at local level and integrate a feedback loop to communities to improve transparency and accountability.

Donors should allow flexible, outcome-based funding to address communities' (including women, men, youth, etc.) own prioritized needs and solutions (identified through community based participatory assessment).

Humanitarians should improve local ownership by reinforcing a community's own capacities and existing coping mechanisms, drawing on community structures (e.g. community development committees) and local women's and youth organizations in a culturally sensitive manner in all phases of humanitarian action.

All humanitarian actors should re-affirm their commitment to upholding the value of putting people at the centre of humanitarian action and localizing that action, with the suggestion that all stakeholders should sign a statement of commitment to this effect.

A task force / coordination mechanism on psychosocial support should be created to ensure psychosocial needs and activities were considered at all levels. Psychosocial and other non-tangible services should be integrated into standard operating procedures for community based participatory assessments and programming.

Humanitarian organizations should develop capacity on psychosocial support and donors should provide adequate funding to comprehensively address psychosocial needs.

Discussion Summary

Recognizing that communication with communities had been raised a number of times in previous regional consultations, participants called on humanitarian organizations to invest in developing their own capacity in this area. The discussion focused on two main areas in this regard: first, on understanding needs and improving community-level coping mechanisms, and second on making contact with communities through secure communication channels, emphasizing the importance of establishing and maintaining technology to facilitate communication within communities.

Participants noted that humanitarians often had limited understanding of the different local or traditional methods communities used to communicate within themselves and with each other. Drawing attention to this problem, one participant questioned the extent to which humanitarian programmes considered strengthening pre-existing community coping

mechanisms. Public information officers were often expected to carry out communication with communities work, but did not necessarily have the right skills and capacities for this. Participants agreed that identifying and supporting each community's own coping mechanisms and drawing on their capacities should be central to the humanitarian response. Strong emphasis was placed on how to make this happen, and it was suggested to integrate these points into standard operating procedures for assessments and communication strategies. Participants agreed that humanitarians needed training and should adopt a context-specific approach to facilitate better communication.

Recognizing the complexity of facilitating communication in conflict situations, participants suggested that the private sector should be called on to enable affected communities' access to information and community technology (ICT), including mobile and internet-based channels and particularly in hard to access places. It was also important to recognize that while police and military channels could be used to reach people in natural disaster situations in conflicts this was much more risky. Acknowledging this, the group agreed that in conflict zones it was sometimes simply not possible to ensure access to ICT.

The fact that it was not always possible to be certain what information sharing would lead to in conflict situations was recognized. Social media had its own dynamics and facilitating access to social media could end up doing more harm than good. Participants accepted this as reason to find new ways to give voice to people who were most cut off in conflict settings. It was suggested that access to ICT infrastructure would support not only community access, but would also ensure humanitarians were better informed about what was happening at local levels. In turn, this information could be used to gain a better understanding of protection issues and assistance needs, with the potential to feed into dialogue with parties to a conflict and/or governments to negotiate access to affected populations.

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Participants recognized the need for psychosocial support to communities and noted that humanitarian assistance often focused on immediate and tangible basic needs like food or shelter but paid little attention to more intangible issues. Examples of projects built on local traditional coping mechanisms were shared, such as training older women in basic counselling so that people could share their thoughts and feelings with them. Other examples including training teachers, medical personnel and government officials to discretely identify symptoms and offer basic counselling or referral for more severe cases. Mention was made of existing tools for psychosocial support for victims of gender based violence, but these were not applied more broadly across the system.

In terms of securing funding for psycho-social support services, participants noted that fund-raising proposals rarely included funding to address intangible needs. Consideration needed to be given to how defining 'psychosocial support' in order to ensure its inclusion in funding proposals. The mind-set of donors needed to be changed if they were going to fund the delivery of psychosocial support services, particularly as the immediate impacts would not be as easily measurable as tangible aid. Some participants proposed that by creating a central platform at national level, space could be created to prioritize this issue effectively and better leverage donors to gain funding to adequately address psychosocial needs.

Participants discussed the lack of a centralized coordination mechanism for those working in the humanitarian sector. This was seen to weaken the sector in terms of being able to unite and gain meaningful political and financial support.

With respect to two-way communication there was also discussion about the media, and how media reporting could adversely influence affected populations in conflict contexts, particularly where unsubstantiated reporting fueled conflict. There was extensive discussion on what could be done about this, and whether training of the media (referring to good practices such as how media were trained not to photograph children) could be supported. The discussion also encompassed the role of for-profit media and sensationalized stories, with the proposal that humanitarians primarily work with non-profit media to keep the focus on the realities of conflict situations and share the voices of affected people. Another proposal was for 10 percent of humanitarian funding to go to non-profit humanitarian news media coverage (with a focus on local media). Others noted their organizations had developed training for journalists at the local level on principled reporting and the do no harm approach and that this had been successful.

Finally, participants suggested that humanitarian organizations should commit and sign up to an agreement to place people at the centre of all humanitarian action, from community based consultations to prioritizing needs and support, supporting existing coping mechanisms, using local capacities and structures in the delivery of assistance and promoting local ownership.

B ADAPTING THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM TO FOCUS ON PROTECTION AND PEACE-BUILDING, PARTICULARLY IN SETTINGS WHERE THERE IS DENIAL OF ACCESS

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Ensure the centrality of protection for people affected by conflict and safety and the security of humanitarian workers.

Humanitarian actors wishing to secure access to conflict areas and serve communities should apply an inclusive and transparent approach to generate trust and acceptance among key stakeholders. Such an approach would contribute to peace-building at all levels. Where access could not be secured, humanitarians should reinforce remote management capacity as a short-term measure while access negotiations were pursued.

Humanitarian actors should advocate for and promote implementation of IHL to protect civilians and build trust among stakeholders in recognition of short-, medium-, and long-term impact on peace-building at local level.

All stakeholders should ensure a common understanding of terminology and definitions in a landscape of evolving conflict. Joint programming should be informed by conflict and risk analysis based on this common understanding.

The WHS should evolve into a framework process to capitalize on its convening power and in complement to existing humanitarian coordination forums and mechanisms. The focus should be on building confidence between various stakeholders, acting as a platform for knowledge sharing, and continuing regional forums for dialogue and networking.

Discussion Summary

Discussion in this session began with acknowledgment that humanitarian action and peace-building initiatives were not well coordinated. The group brainstormed on whether to integrate humanitarian action, protection and peace-building - with a specific focus on gaining and maintaining access to conflict affected areas - and, if so, which tactical and operational approaches to apply.

The participants reached a general agreement on the importance of considering peace-building elements while planning for and providing humanitarian aid to affected people. They also considered whether humanitarian activities could contribute to building and consolidating peace. The point was clearly taken into account that this should be done after thorough conflict and risk analysis, ensuring the humanitarian character of relief operations was preserved and in line with the principle of 'do no harm'.

Having talked about the categorization of conflict based on its complexity, intensity and duration, participants discussed the fact that the volatile and unpredictable nature of conflict reduced the ability to address it in a systematic manner. This led to the question of how to link peace-building activities and humanitarian assistance to ensure timely provision of aid to affected

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communities. Participants expressed concern that IHL did not have the necessary 'teeth' to deal with access issues. Others cited complaints that humanitarians have already taken too much on themselves and that it would be hard to imagine taking on extra responsibility for peace-building.

There was some disagreement as to whether humanitarian actors should be involved in peace-building at all. One participant insisted that the UN had been successful in delivering assistance but not in negotiating access with non-state parties. They encouraged promotion of an inclusive and comprehensive approach to access involving the UN, government, military and other actors, and further proposed that regional approaches to crisis management did not allow for peace-building. Instead, peace-building forces should be deployed from outside the region. Thus, linking peace-building with humanitarian efforts would not be accepted in any region. This was echoed by other participants who suggested that humanitarians should focus on protection and access and be very careful in engaging in peace-building activities. It was impossible to ensure protection in conflict settings without taking sides, which jeopardized the neutrality and independence of humanitarian action, especially when one party to a conflict was a military group.

The issue of the centrality of protection was well articulated by the group, which focused on how to make people feel safe, especially those living in areas controlled by non-state armed groups and in which people were often dehumanized, deprived of basic human rights, and left unable to access essential services.

Participants acknowledged that governments did not always have the required capacity or political will to protect and assist conflict-affected communities, especially when the government was party to the conflict. They agreed that humanitarian workers should support governments as required to ensure that the increased needs of the affected population were met. This, however, did not shift the overall primary responsibility of a government to protect its citizens regardless of whether a disaster was natural or man-made. Moreover, humanitarian actors should not undermine the role of local government or 'abuse local authorities with money and power'.

In line with the recognized importance of a people-centred approach, the group considered establishing and/or maintaining efficient monitoring mechanisms, with regular access to feedback from affected communities in order to make sure that humanitarian actors received regular and timely updates on access and protection matters. While recognizing the challenges of applying such approaches in conflict settings, participants underlined the importance of receiving feedback from affected communities, including their views on access issues as timely and adequate assistance was essential to those in need. The WHS was strongly encouraged to develop clear recommendations in this regard.

The group discussion also looked at questions of to how to negotiate with non-state armed groups without being labelled by government or international donors as supporting terrorist organizations. The international community occupied an ambiguous position in promoting the delivery of assistance to the most vulnerable, yet shying away from engaging in discussions on counter-terrorism. A call was put forward to explore ways the international community could assist affected communities in such areas, with reference to the provisions of IHL, conventions and protocols and the importance of allowing negotiation in order to secure access and eradicate radicalism.

Decrying the fact that some crises were easy to predict and yet governments supplied weapons under the umbrella of humanitarian assistance, one participant said that "love for humanity is less than love for gas and oil", and encouraged countries to work together to prevent political and humanitarian crises. Concern was also raised that radical religious elements were gaining more and more popularity among youth in many countries and this underscored the importance of raising awareness among younger generations. Education initiatives should be undertaken to prevent radicalization.

The discussion moved to consider the role of the religious institutions and leaders in supporting peace-building at community level. The group agreed that it was particularly important not to undermine the culture and religious beliefs of affected people and to seek the support of and close engagement with religious and community leaders, churches and mosques. Similarly, there was a need to identify actors with sufficient influence in the region and create a database of the most important players in countries affected by or with potential for conflict. Of efforts to build bridges and link elements of religion with IHL, this was seen as important to developing capacity and expertise to engage non-state actors through religious circles. Some participants however did not agree that such a role could be played by humanitarians without jeopardizing their neutrality and the humanitarian character of relief operations.

Returning to broader discussions on different approaches to accessing communities, participants discussed the pros and cons of building acceptance versus forcing oneself into the area. The latter approach was considered less preferable, with many limitations identified. The former, however, could only be applied when principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence were respected. Most of the participants agreed that when parties to

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a conflict were convinced of a strictly humanitarian character of operations, it became easy for humanitarian actors to operate in that environment. The need for organizations to position themselves on the ground in a clear and transparent way was recognized by the group.

Participants agreed that peace-building was the first priority of affected populations themselves and acknowledged that even if humanitarian actors did not see themselves as part of peace-building or peace-making processes, they could positively contribute to them. Protection could be achieved by promoting IHL with all parties to a conflict and raising awareness on the potential humanitarian consequences of violations as an indirect contribution to peace-building.

Given an understanding of peace-building as a multi-phase, multi-dimensional and multi-level process, the transition period right after conflict was the best time for building synergies and creating greater coherence between humanitarian and peace-building elements. As an example, supporting mobile justice courts that gave civilians access to justice ensured a certain level of protection, and promoted trust and transparency between stakeholders, including affected communities, thus supporting the peace-building process.

In exploring strategic and tactical approaches to access negotiations with parties to a conflict in general and non-state armed groups in particular, the group looked at the potential risk of jeopardizing access to affected people by trying to bring an element of peace-building into the negotiations process. They discussed how this could undermine the perception of neutrality and independence of humanitarian action. Follow-on effects could see unsuccessful negotiations conducted by one organization leading to denial of access to other humanitarian actors, shrinking of humanitarian space, increased risk to humanitarians, restriction of access by affected people to essential services, as well as an overall negative impact on peace-building processes.

The importance of promoting understanding and transparency, and generating trust among stakeholders, including humanitarian, development and peace-building actors and concerned governments, was discussed. One suggestion on how to achieve this was through joint conflict and risk analysis and joint programming to strengthen existing mechanisms and improve communications channels. Highlighting the need to support local organizations, some participants called for trust-building and cooperation between the UN and international organizations on one side and NGOs and community-based organization on the other, noting that the UN and international organizations preferred to work within their respective 'families'. Participants also debated whether it was true that most governments did not like civil society organizations, especially those operating in conflict areas.

At the end, there was a discussion and recommendation to consider using remote management of humanitarian operations in situations when access was denied or restricted, working through partners on the ground such as community and religious leaders and civil society organizations. However, this mode of operations was recognized as a temporary measure suitable only for a limited period while access negotiations were on-going

C   STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE ACTION IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Support community level conflict risk reduction by investing in social capital formation, such as through community development councils or other local structures. In conflicts, the humanitarian community should work through these community organizations to implement context sensitive protection.

Promote a global compact that places affected people at the centre of humanitarian, development, conflict prevention and peace-building action, including components on prevention, social capital formation, context specific protection, addressing root causes, and providing the necessary resources. This should be replicated with national or local compacts at the local level.

Discussion Summary

In the introduction to the session, participants heard that humanitarian action was overstretched as it only had limited capacity to deal with a few crises, but there were many more to handle. When politics became gridlocked, people turned to humanitarians and there was risk that humanitarian action would become politicized.

In the context of a world dealing with more failed states, brutality and violence, all humanitarian actors needed to review their roles, including their relationship to peacekeeping, whether or not they engaged in preparedness and preventive measures in their actions, and whether or not they needed to increase awareness of political situations and place greater focus on human rights.

As the discussion opened out, participants provided examples of coordination mechanisms and identified the risk of lack of diversity in these. They noted that international NGOs were dependent on the UN Resident / Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian

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Country Team (HCT) for coordination, but problems existed when there was disagreement regarding analysis or when the HCT became politicized. An example was given of how investment in joint assessments increased challenges when these were not well conducted, as the partners had no other analysis to cross-check. The discussion moved on to how humanitarian actors could get member states to engage more on strengthening humanitarian principles. Participants agreed that the international community needed to pay more attention to strengthening the capacity of local NGOs and non-state actors before conflict emerged, as well as to strengthening coordination networks, humanitarian principles, and compliance with humanitarian laws. The group also flagged the issue that some humanitarian actors lacked a code of conduct and violated the humanitarian principles. It was very important to strengthen a code of conduct for international and local actors.

Member States generally supported humanitarian principles, but politicization was a major problem when lack of trust and accusations prevented access. Strengthening local capacity enhanced awareness of the importance of access. Participants suggested that humanitarian actors needed to increase dialogue with governments to assure the security of aid workers, who needed to have access to the people they intended to assist. The group also reiterated that access was not just about humanitarians' access to affected people, but also people's access to services and funding.

It was suggested that providing countries with large populations with international support via a stronger legal framework for burden-sharing on refugees and stateless people would help to develop long-term solutions, particularly in situations that involved neighbouring countries, such as cross-border displacement and human trafficking. While there had not been much discussion about the role of regional organizations in burden-sharing, they could have a role to play and should be more flexible in this regard.

Considering the proposal to form a humanitarian council separate to the UN Security Council, the group expressed concern that could cause fragmentation of humanitarian action.

Participants discussed the importance of protection in conflict settings. There was call for a global compact that placed protection at the centre of humanitarian action but also showed respect for regional and national dynamics and local values. The international community needed to unite all actors under a common value set, which should be based on neutrality, impartiality and accountability. The compact should also include commitments to both funding

and advocacy components. In opposition, others argued that protection was effectively a means to find solutions, but not alone sufficient to achieve solutions. The group agreed that protection had multiple dimensions and first needed to be understood by all stakeholders before actions to build a global agreement/compact could be discussed.

It was noted by the group that protection was often discussed at a global level, but there was need to discuss this more in relation to local issues and context, because root causes were often unable to be addressed at international level. Participants discussed the value of community organizations in starting to build trust before conflict occurred. It was agreed that local community-level collective action should be linked to the national level, but should be separated from the global level.

Participants also raised the issue of protection in relation to NGOs, suggesting there may be need for NGO staff to have a similar convention to the Geneva Convention, under which UN staff was protected. There was also a need for a more robust legal framework for NGOs undertaking humanitarian work to help avoid political pressure and reduce visa problems. Participants recognized this as complex, in part because many terrorist organizations operated under the badge of NGOs. Thus, it was important to have a mechanism to differentiate between legitimate and illegitimate national and international NGOs.

There was a strong call from the group for collective action among various actors to address the sensitivities of conflict. Participants noted that most of the time governments had their own policies and acted separately to international actors, who did not necessarily consult with local stakeholders and made decisions on their own, all of which caused mistrust. Participants also noted that shared understanding, knowledge of humanitarian principles at all levels, and ability to be pragmatic was crucial when talking about collective action. Governments were recognized as having primary responsibility within their territories and that, unless they were failed states, governments must be willing to take the lead in collective action.

Finally, participants discussed the need for better database and mapping systems for conflict, proposing a common conflict analysis tool that would help actors to understand the root causes of conflict in order to contribute to better strategy. They agreed that future conflict would likely be natural resource or natural disaster related and discussed how to address non-political contributors to future conflict. The group agreed that humanitarians could start working on prevention and mitigation (e.g. land and water management) and not just focus on political aspects.

This reflected an interest in the concept of conflict risk reduction, particularly through increased social capital to address lack of voice or inclusion as a driver of conflict. It was suggested that social capital be built by bringing global best practices together, but ensuring these resonated locally. At the end of the session, some questions remained regarding social capital, particularly how this could work better in urban settings and how to build social capital at the international or regional level.

PROTRACTED CRISIS

A girl waits outside a camp in Pakistan.

Credit: Ramoneda / UNICEF

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

FACILITATOR (LEFT)

Ms. Kyung-wha Kang,
UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

PANELLISTS (TOP LEFT TO RIGHT)

Ms. Fatemeh Ashrafi, Executive Director, Association for Protection of Refugee Women & Children (Iran)

Mr. Johan Cels, Head, Governance and Partnership Services, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Ms. Meryem Aslan, Country Director in Turkey, Oxfam

Mr. Taef Ul Haq, Colonel Staff (Training), Operation and Plans Directorate, Armed Forces Division, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh

PANEL SUMMARY

Opening the panel discussion, the moderator noted that protracted crises posed a major challenge in Central Asia, highlighting the need to look at different questions such as how to work with large and diverse groups of partners to promote durable solutions for affected communities; how to redress the continued use of short-term humanitarian financing and programmes to address long-terms needs; and how to strengthen legal frameworks to cater for the specific needs of internally displaced people and migrants in particular.

Responding to these points, the panellists noted the importance of recognizing from the start why people who were displaced or migrants did not always wish or have the ability to return to their place of origin. Some of them, particularly those leaving disaster or conflict affected zones, were migrating without their household goods, assets and livelihoods, nor their regular support networks. They left in search of better living conditions. Thus, there was a need for preparedness action to mitigate the impact of crisis beforehand. Achieving durable solutions also meant ensuring sustainable security, which was a necessary precondition for return, and did not exist in some of the biggest and most protracted crises in the region.

Overall, there had been a tremendous increase in people in need of support in protracted crises, but not a similar groundswell in the political will to meet those needs. Integrated approaches that brought together response in protracted settings as both a humanitarian and development issue, that supported the move from relief to development assistance, were needed. This required concerted action in terms of financing, as well as planning and implementing programmes. Given the limited amount of new resources thought to be available, there was a need to look at innovative financing mechanisms, with one panellist highlight the support that the World Bank would provide to countries to support the integration of IDP communities.

Critically, what differentiated the needs of people in protracted crises most particularly from those facing shorter-term crisis was their need to access regular basic services like education and health care in a sustainable way. There was both a particular role for development actors, but also governments in this regard. The key was for governments to provide, and their partners to support them in this regard, basic services for the populations they hosted, whether their citizens or people who had sought asylum or employment. Difficult challenges must also be faced to achieve more equitable burden sharing, particularly for small countries that hosted a large population of displaced people or refugees, and in addressing the sometimes political causes of resources limitations, such as international sanctions.

Finally, in terms of capacity building, panellists challenged the idea that this was being approached in a useful fashion, noting that the real question was what type of capacity was required and answering, peace-building and peace-making capacity. The lack of peace and action to address the root causes of crises, denial of people's rights – these were what caused crises to become protracted. National institutions and organizations should be strengthened in a way that promoted peace-building, and capacity building in this regard must necessarily be localized, not cut-and-pasted from other contexts.

Please note that all photos displayed in the following workshop sections of the final report were taken during the WHS Regional Consultation for South and Central Asia, at the Ismaili Centre Dushanbe, but may not correspond to the breakout sessions within each workshop.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

A ADAPTING HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO SITUATIONS OF PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Refugee hosting agreements should be changed so that not only first safe countries accept refugees. There is a need for the international community to share in accepting the resettlement of people affected by protracted crisis.

Generally, there are negative associations with refugees worldwide. Positive education programs are needed in receiving and developed countries to help tackle xenophobia surrounding this issue.

A basic social protection package / fund for long-term refugees (for example for 10 years) should be established and include risk-financing mechanisms such as health insurance and livelihood grants (e.g. in Turkey, refugees' health insurance costs are paid by the government – international systems should support this). This international fund would support host countries to cover education, health and vocational training (basic package needs), and would also serve to maintain peace between host country communities and newly resettled people.

Ensure reintegration of displaced people through livelihood programs, which should also take into account the specific needs of women and girls. Women and girls need to be included in decision making processes as social change agents.

Discussion Summary

Participants focused on key questions regarding what type of mechanism could be implemented to overcome existing challenges in protracted crisis situations, and in particular, how affected or displaced people could be better included in national development plans to access public services. There was also discussion from the host country perspective on how to better partner / cooperate with different actors in protracted conflicts in order to better address the needs of displaced people.

The issue of climate-induced disaster and displacement was a common concern shared by many participants. In particular, they emphasized that even though incidences of environmental and climate-induced crises were becoming more frequent; they were often overlooked due to their characteristic slow-onset nature. Participants recognised that a long-term development-based approach was necessary and that this could not be addressed by governments alone. Instead national governments needed to act in conjunction with international actors, who could provide support through financing and providing resources to develop more uniform and sustainable policies on this issue.

In recognising the link between climate change and displacement in areas of high population density, it was debated whether the UN should develop a new protocol on the topic of the displacement / movement of people due to climate change. However, participants agreed that there were already enough existing UN initiatives in place to deal with this issue, and concluded that the humanitarian sector needed to be careful not to extend its mandate. However,

the humanitarian sector was best placed to play an advocacy role in protracted crises, while the true responsibility remained with governments, who should be lobbied at national levels to adopt internal displacement policies.

Regarding climate-change refugees, participants also considered the importance of political will and displacement statistics. It was suggested that governments needed to implement more stringent IDP and refugee registration procedures, which could serve the dual benefit of supporting newly resettled refugees to become an asset to their host country by legally contributing towards its economy, and in turn, refugees could be better integrated into their new place of residence (whether on a temporary or long-term basis). It was also suggested that the legal registration and status of refugees would contribute positively to the host country by minimizing conflict between refugees and their host communities. There was widespread recognition amongst participants of the need for countries in the region to contribute to sharing in the international resettlement of refugees; to adopt positive education programmes to tackle xenophobia and the misunderstanding of refugees worldwide; and to develop basic social protection / primary care packages / funds for long-term refugees, including risk-financing mechanisms such as health insurance, livelihood grants and vocational training.

Participants discussed the special attention required to address the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons and those with special needs in protracted crisis situations. In particular, people should be considered in terms of their needs, capacities, and visibility status. Participants recognized the value of including these vulnerable groups in planning humanitarian response and decision-making processes, acknowledging that they should be recognized as agents of change with valuable local knowledge, rather than victims or beneficiaries. On this topic, it became clear that there were already many good practices in the region, and participants suggested these should be shared and improved upon.

Flexible financing was ranked highly as a priority for participants, who noted that funding for humanitarian and development projects was often separated into silos. This was considered a particular problem given that in protracted crisis situations, the line between humanitarian and development work often became blurred. While the CERF addressed the issue of settling refugees into their host countries, there was no fund available to assist with the return and reintegration of refugees; discussions with international donors had not been easy in this regard. It was suggested that international funds should be invested in communities for micro-financing in

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

order to grow small businesses in situations of protracted crisis. A more targeted discussion on this topic was proposed between international humanitarian and development actors.

Overall, participants considered the lack of coordination between different systems in protracted crises to be a major issue. At the international level, the roles and responsibilities of donors, governments, international humanitarian organizations, local CSOs and affected communities were often confused and needed to be understood more clearly. In terms of responsibilities, it was suggested that civil society was responsible for raising these challenges with HCTs. A civil society representative also suggested that CSOs were well positioned to take on this role, given they often had a good understanding of local and regional contexts in order to provide affected communities with what they need. Another issue of coordination raised by participants was that of cluster and sector working groups being led by governments. It was highlighted that often in protracted situations, clusters did not return to the roles they had before the crisis. It was suggested that further research needed to be conducted on how clusters could better engage with development actors to coordinate action between governments and humanitarian organizations in order to begin to address this issue.

B BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY IN PROTRACTED CRISES

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the community level parents, teachers, social workers and religious leaders should be equipped with appropriate skills to provide quality psychosocial support. Quality psychosocial support/services should be available at all levels (from household to specialised referral facilities), particularly for vulnerable groups.

Mapping of available skills, coping mechanisms and gaps analysis should be undertaken jointly with affected communities to inform capacity-building approaches. Capacity should be mobilised within affected communities to respond to the needs of the community, including provision of basic services (education, health, livelihoods and skills development) to build resilience and restore/maintain dignity of affected communities.

Local communities' coping mechanisms, best practices, and lessons learned should be documented and disseminated through websites, media (including social media), national level networks, regional and international forums and community groups.

The host government should lead response to crisis with financial and technical support from the international community. The entire burden of a protracted crisis should not be left to a single country.

Local and international media should convey positive stories about the capacity and resilience of affected communities in protracted crises.

Governments should support all implementers to deliver holistic services that meet the specific needs of all groups including women, children and youth.

Discussion Summary

The initial group discussions focused on the particular needs and challenges in protracted crises. Participants highlighted their experiences of working with refugees and internally displaced people who had been displaced for extended periods of time, particularly in South Asia and agreed that displacement in the region was expected to continue in the years to come.

Participants observed that there was a lack of capacity to handle the large number of refugees in the region, particularly stressing local health and education systems. They highlighted the need to acknowledge the cultural impact that host communities had on displaced populations and vice versa. In the long-term, the impacts of unemployment and dependency on assistance on people were felt strongly from a psychological perspective.

Particular emphasis was placed on the right of all people to health and of children to education. The group agreed that it was important to ensure gender equality in all sectors, for example in access to education. Moreover, they identified a need to develop the skills of refugees, which they would also be able to utilize upon return to their country of origin. An example was provided from South Asia where capacity was built for refugees to generate income their own income. Participants stressed the need for restoring dignity beyond saving lives, and restoring autonomy so that people could take care of themselves and their family.

Participants underscored the need for quality psychosocial support and services to be made available at all levels, from household to specialised referral facilities, particularly for vulnerable groups. Proposals for institutionalizing psychosocial counselling capacity included empowering parents to act as frontline responders and equipping parents, teachers, social workers and religious leaders with appropriate skills to provide quality psychosocial support. Few secondary or tertiary level psychological services were likely to be available, but referral pathways could be put in place to steer those in need to more sophisticated care. Host governments were called on to take the lead in this, with support from humanitarian actors as required.

The specific situations and needs of certain groups were highlighted as an important aspect in protracted crises. For example, children had the right to education but this could be challenged by families reporting that they needed children, especially boys, to work for the family to survive. Women also faced specific challenges, including the double burden of working to earn money as well as taking care of their children. Programmes that helped women to support each other through money-saving schemes and accessing opportunities for earning income were recommended.

Cash-based programming was briefly discussed in terms of how it should be scaled up to support durable solutions for internally displaced people, but reference was made to the inclusion of this point in the recommendations of previous consultations.
Participants stressed the importance of enabling the local community to identify their own priorities. Among suggestions in this regard was to conduct capacity and skills assessments alongside traditional needs assessments, with the aim of strengthening resilience and building on the existing coping mechanisms of affected communities. An example was provided

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

of volunteers from the same cultural group as the displaced supporting assistance providers to better understand how services needed to be tailored. Participants advocated for humanitarians to undertake mappings of available skills, coping mechanisms and gaps analyses jointly with affected communities to inform capacity building approaches, response to the needs of the community, and provision of basic services (education, health, livelihoods and skills development). The group agreed this would help restore and maintain the dignity of affected communities.

Participants emphasized the key role of media, and agreed that there was scope for media to play a more positive and responsible role in situations of protracted crisis. Participants recognized that media could be better engaged, both in terms of disseminating information as well as in providing positive images of affected people. Participants urged local and international media to convey positive stories about the capacity and resilience of affected communities during protracted crises.

This led to further comments on the need to better leverage technology to create information access and sharing platforms for affected people. A suggestion was put forward to document and disseminate local communities' coping mechanisms, best practices, and lessons learned using websites, media (including social media), national level networks, regional and international forums and community groups. Participants noted

that it was important to facilitate sharing of both best and worst practices and innovative approaches in order to better serve affected communities. This could be done through mapping existing capacities and standardising existing tools. There was disagreement on who should take ownership of this action, with some participants suggesting that it should be the UN and others holding that this was the responsibility of civil society or governments.

Participants discussed how to give local civil society and community-based groups access to new technological tools and innovative ways of working to help affected people. There were suggestions that there could be "hubs" identified at national, regional, and international levels to house examples of good practice in these areas. These hubs could be connected so actors could identify projects that could be scaled to benefit greater numbers of people and more rapidly expand successful, innovative programming. The private sector should be engaged to address such areas of technological innovation in protracted crises.

Government should support humanitarian actors to implement holistic programming for all affected people and meet the specific needs of all groups including women, children and youth, suggested the group. They added that this would help strengthen the resilience of local communities and improve the quality of services delivered to them, especially in disaster situations. Moreover, it would ensure that the response was more considerate and sensitive to the needs of the community.

Some participants raised concerns around how considerate humanitarian agencies actually were, and argued that there was room for improvement in response interventions and programming. Other participants were troubled by the division of approaches and funding into 'humanitarian' and 'development' categories, and called on donors and governments to look at what needed to be done from a holistic perspective. One participant suggested that disaster risk reduction should be mainstreamed into the development process.

Finally, participants underscored that national governments should be in the lead in preparing for and responding to crises. Acknowledging that a recommendation around the role of state actors had been made in other regional consultations, it was still considered important to reinforce the state's role from the South and Central Asian perspective. Participants identified the important role the international community had to strengthen the capacity of host governments at the central as well as the local level, emphasizing that the entire burden of a protracted crisis should not be on any single country.

"By legalising migration we remove the danger out of the equation"

Participant quote

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

C FACILITATING DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO PROTRACTED CRISES AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on international best practices, UN Member States should work together to enact legislation to provide adequate protection for IDPs. Learning from the process of developing the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Guidelines may be useful in this context.

Countries should be encouraged to better manage migration and support productive workforce development, thus limiting illegal migration and related humanitarian consequences.

All migrants should enjoy access to basic services (health care, education, livelihoods and vocational training), either provided by governments or their partners.

Discussion Summary

Participants acknowledged that protracted crises could arise from long-term displacement due to natural disasters and climate change, conflict or voluntary movements of people. Such situations were often exacerbated in South Asia due to high population densities and camps or entire towns could quickly grow where displaced people settled, often without adequate shelter or planning approval.

Participants noted that there had been an increase in the number of people who competed for scarce resources in urban areas, particularly in South Asia. Security and protection was raised as a key concern to be addressed for communities to find peace and sustain their lives. The group discussed how difficult circumstances, especially for women and children, could lead to violence, human trafficking, and child labour. An example was given by a Central Asian representative of a situation in which children were forced to work, or ended up spending their time on the streets begging.

Participants noted that displaced communities often wanted to stay together, particularly in times of crisis, and that they often relied on humanitarian assistance to ensure that their basic needs were met, particularly education, health care, and shelter. They also noted that displaced people were vulnerable to conflict, and that there was a need for building trust between conflicting parties and displaced populations.

The importance of ensuring that people could take care of their own livelihoods was highlighted. It was agreed that governments should do more to resolve the issue of unemployment and that civil society should facilitate the creation of job opportunities. Some participants cautioned that the economic development of the affected community should have a positive rather than negative impact on businesses in the host community, and that conflict should be avoided between displaced and host communities over access to resources.

Participants cited several instances in South and Central Asia in which displaced populations could not return to their homes. One South Asian example illustrated that refugees did not return

to their home country because of insecurity and lack of job opportunities. An example was given of IDPs in a Central Asian country that wanted to return to their residences; however, these had been occupied by other people. Another participant highlighted a situation in which it was difficult for refugees coming from rural areas to return because they had become used to life in the urban setting in a neighbouring country.

Participants discussed whether the three recognized categories of people affected by protracted crises, namely refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and migrants were sufficient. There was a call to create a new term for refugees or IDPs who become displaced because of climate change; however this suggestion was not taken forward by the group.

A discussion also emerged on the difference between refugees and migrants. Participants highlighted that the involuntary movement from and/or well-founded fear of persecution in their country of origin clearly distinguished refugees from migrants. Participants agreed that the status of refugees was not so much an issue, as a convention existed specifically for them, but noted that not all countries in South and Central Asia had signed the convention.

In contrast to the mechanisms for refugees, there were almost no laws, conventions or frameworks on IDPs. Governments were reminded of their responsibility to support IDPs; however, it was noted that some countries had been asking for support to learn from best practice on handling internal displacement. Participants underscored the need to clarify how governments should act in case of internal displacement, so that this could be incorporated into national provisions and legislation. They suggested that the Kampala Convention (the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa) could be used as a reference.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

Participants also identified the IDRL Guidelines as another good source to assist governments to become better prepared for common legal problems associated with protracted crises. Although IDRL was not intended for conflict situations, the process used for development of the legal instruments that fell under the broad IDRL definition could be used for protracted crises caused by natural disasters and climate change. During discussion it was emphasized that the idea was not to force the IDRL Guidelines upon governments, but to suggest this as best practice.

Participants emphasized the key role of government in changing the status quo of displaced populations. It was agreed that there was not always a political willingness or interest to do so. In other instances, governments were not seen to be courageous enough. The group discussed examples from around the world and contrasted these with the situation in South and Central Asia, identifying some good examples of political and societal willingness to integrate refugees into host countries. It was highlighted that when national and local governments facilitate the integration process refugees have more opportunities for education and employment.

There was agreement that most of the protracted crises in South and Central Asia were of political nature and hence could not easily be solved through multi-stakeholder discussions. Some types of non-state actors were mentioned as an inhibiting factor in finding durable solutions. There was a general discussion on the importance of impartiality and neutrality in protracted crises, during which a participant pointed out that this did not need to inhibit the work of local civil society or stop humanitarian actors from dealing with governments.

A repository of best practices on durable solutions to deal with long-term displaced people was proposed as a way to capture innovation, for example on how to deal with human trafficking, which could help when looking for durable solutions. In many instances, the group heard, durable solutions had been found by communities themselves. Often people had been displaced for years or even decades and had not been properly integrated into society, mainly because they had never received legal acknowledgement or citizenship. They therefore had found their own coping mechanisms, often without government support. Participants stressed the need to clarify the legal status of these people, so they could move out of the 'grey economy' and truly integrate.

Concerned that many Asian countries were overwhelmed by the number of refugees they hosted, participants noted the lack of additional absorption capacity to integrate refugees into society. In response, the group called on Western countries to share some of this burden. Another participant raised the challenge of maintaining equality between refugees from different ethnic minorities, and the need for regional cooperation to find durable solutions.

A discussion arose on preventing internal displacement from taking place, but the general agreement was reached that this was not the mandate of the humanitarian sector. One participant suggested creating safe zones for IDPs in-country where basic services would be accessible, but this idea was not picked up by the group.

Particular emphasis in the group's discussion was placed on the situation of migrants. Participants flagged that there was a lot of migration taking place in South and Central Asia, and agreed that there were serious humanitarian consequences due to lack of concerted global and regional action to better manage migration. Participants noted that current laws on migration were not working, and were clear that migrants should be viewed as potential resources and not as a burden to society. They called for governments to embrace migration as both a challenge and opportunity, and were unanimous in calling for better management of migration to prevent protracted crises. It was suggested the best way to prevent illegal migration was to make sure processes were in place to facilitate legal migration.

Migration could, for example, be managed through unskilled labour projects, with some participants pointing to the economic benefits of legalised migration. There was a suggestion to call on the private sector, perhaps through corporate social responsibility, to employ migrants in their companies.

There was also general understanding that, independent of whether governments recognized or tolerated displaced people or not, the humanitarian community should provide assistance to those who need assistance. Governments should ensure basic services were made available to migrants and refugees. They should receive training, children should be allowed to go to school, and health care should be made accessible to all. It was seen as important for everybody living in the country. As an example, one participant noted that if migrants did not get access to health care, there could be a risk of epidemics. Governments should work with civil society and/or the international community to provide these services and should support them financially.

Finally, participants pointed to the need for short-term training courses, particularly technical or language courses, for people living in camps or longer-term settlements. These would be beneficial during displacement and also upon return, where this knowledge could help them to start their own businesses.

ANNEX

ANNEX 1. PIGEONHOLE LIVE SUMMARY

For all panel discussions, the question-and-answer component was managed by the moderator, who was responsible for posing all questions to the panellists. Members of the audience at the regional consultation, and those watching the live webcast during public sessions, were able to submit and vote for their favourite questions using **Pigeonhole Live**. The following analysis presents key statistics on participation via Pigeonhole Live in each of the panel discussions, as well as the top five questions for each session.

MAIN STATS

811 participants

(Total number of users who logged into Pigeonhole using the Event passcode - online+audience)

158 questions cast

472 votes recieved

WORD MAP

THE ROAD TO DUSHANBE - DAY 1

Description: In this panel, representatives of key stakeholder groups spoke to key findings from the preparatory consultations with their respective constituencies: Government, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), National / Local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Youth, and Online Consultations.

72 USERS   **27** QUESTIONS   **110** VOTES

TOP 5 QUESTIONS PER SESSION WITH VOTE COUNT ON LEFT

17 What do we want from the Humanitarian Summit and why? - 11 comments

16 What are some ideas to address the tensions between the short-term nature of humanitarian response and the demands of protracted crisis in the region? - 1 comments

11 While the concerns of youth are well appreciated, why is it that the concerns of the ageing population, the fastest growing group, is just ignored? - 9 comments

8 Different perceptions matter in an decision making and understanding a problem. Affected person's point of view of a disaster or conflict may be different to how we see it from outside.

8 Do you believe that CSOs are able to take on the role of leadership in humanitarian action?

THE CENTRALITY OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES - DAY 1

Description: Comprising three affected community representatives, a senior government representative and the high-level representatives of OCHA and WFP, this panel set the scene for the regional consultation with panellists responding to the question: **"What do we mean when we say that affected communities should be at the centre of humanitarian action?"**

109 USERS   **61** QUESTIONS   **164** VOTES

TOP 5 QUESTIONS PER SESSION WITH VOTE COUNT ON LEFT

16 How can the humanitarian summit help to overcome inertia within the UN system? - 3 comments

11 Centrality or centre of gravity of humanitarian actions: decisions, planning, ownership? - 1 comment

10 In disasters host communities too are at the receiving end and most often overlooked. How best can their needs be prioritised? - 1 comment

9 Is it always the right way to only focus on the affected community, considering they might have some urgent needs that can be defined through global discussions?

8 Who else should be at the centre of humanitarian action, if not communities ? What is the real change and innovation?

ANNEX 1. PIGEONHOLE LIVE SUMMARY

NUMBER OF USERS PER SESSION

Stakeholder Perspectives II — 13%

Humanitarian Financing and Humanitarian Principles* — 18%

Stakeholder Perspectives I — 28%

The Centrality of Affected Communities — 41%

NUMBER OF QUESTIONS PER SESSION

Stakeholder Perspectives II — 12%

Stakeholder Perspectives I — 18%

Humanitarian Financing and Humanitarian Principles* — 33%

The Centrality of Affected Communities — 37%
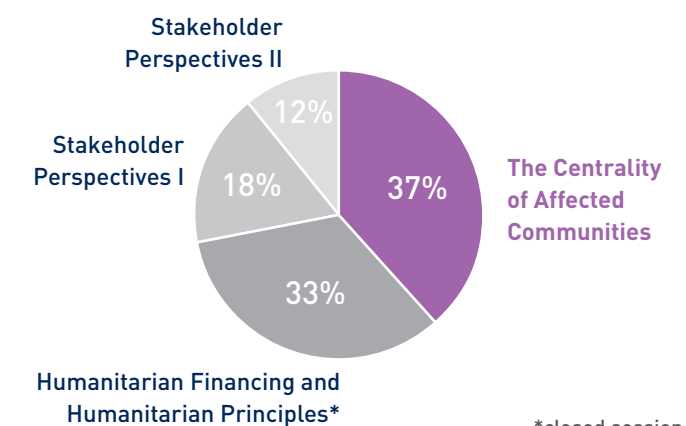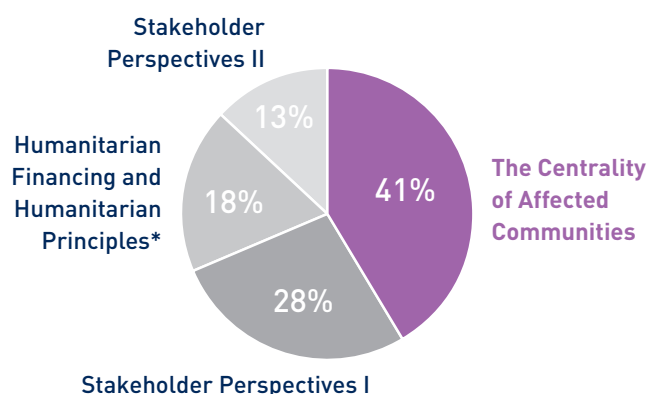
*closed session

HUMANITARIAN FINANCING AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES - DAY 2

Description: In this session, panellists were asked to discuss issues related to humanitarian financing flows in the context of humanitarian response, with a particular focus on conflict and protracted crisis situations. The panel was composed of representatives of a UN agency, a Regional Organization, a Local CSO, and an organization supporting the Private Sector.

48 USERS   **53** QUESTIONS   **150** VOTES

TOP 5 QUESTIONS PER SESSION WITH VOTE COUNT ON LEFT

17   Should there be a "Humanitarian Bank", just like there is the World Bank for development issues? Or is a fund like CERF a more suitable instrument to address humanitarian needs? - 4 comments

16   Many Muslim charities in the UK have recently had their accounts closed by HSBC due to pressure from Governments. How can we ensure that there is clarity with regards political interference on operations?

11   The humanitarian action in conflict zones has limits! What dialogue can humanitarians have about it with donors and politics?

10   Do you think it is important to have a neutral and independent funding scheme for humanitarian action in conflict? If so, how we can create this scheme? - 3 comments

9   The Summit should call for an independent fiscal watchdog. What are your views?

STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES II - DAY 3

Description: Five panellists, representing each of the stakeholder groups/groupings, had five minutes each to present the key points agreed in their respective breakout group discussions, after which there was a moderated question-and-answer session. The stakeholder groups represented were: Governments, IASC agencies, CSOs & Affected Communities, Youth, and Academia, Private Sector & Media.

34 USERS   **17** QUESTIONS   **48** VOTES

TOP 5 QUESTIONS PER SESSION WITH VOTE COUNT ON LEFT

10   How can we ensure a true multi-stakeholder WHS if governments insist on remaining in full control and are not willing to delegate responsibilities to other actors?

9   What kind of accountability framework is needed to help ensure accountability by a diverse range of stakeholders involved in humanitarian action – governments, donors, humanitarian organizations? - 1 comment

5   To what extent are those recommendations ready to be realized? - 2 comments

5   What mechanism will be used to check and monitor whether these recommendations are getting buy-in from respective stakeholders in this region?

4   Should the recommendations be revisited to ensure whether it's aligned to the objective of working differently post 2017?

The full list of Pigeonhole questions and answers can be viewed online here.

ANNEX 2. FINAL AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

DAY ONE - TUESDAY 28 JULY - MORNING SESSION

Registration of Participants - Registration Hall

| 08:00 09:00 | • Sign in and confirmation of contact details,
• Confirmation of Natural Disasters Workshop breakout group selection,
• Confirmation of Workshop Session for day 2 (Conflict or Protracted Crisis) and breakout group selection,
• Distribution of meeting package, including briefing book and name tags. |

PLENARY SESSION (PUBLIC SESSION)

| 09:00 09:20 | **Welcome to the Regional Consultation - Plenary Hall**
• Review of the programme and ground rules for the consultation |

| 09:20 09:45 | **High-Level Opening Ceremony - Plenary Hall**
• Video message from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
• Diplomatic Representative to Tajikistan, Aga Khan Development Network
• Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Tajikistan |

| 09:45 10:15 | **The Road to Dushanbe - Plenary Hall**
This session will feature presentations on the global WHS process and the preparatory stakeholder consultations in South and Central Asia. |

| 10:15 11:00 | **Stakeholder Perspectives - Plenary Hall**
In this panel, representatives of key stakeholder groups will speak to key findings from the preparatory consultations with their respective constituencies.
• Government representative
• Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) representative
• National / local civil society organization (CSO) representative
• Private sector representative
• Youth representative |

| 11:00 11:30 | **Group Photo & Coffee Break - Refreshments Hall** |

PLENARY SESSION (PUBLIC SESSION)

| 11:30 13:00 | **The Centrality of Affected Communities - Plenary Hall**
Setting the scene for the regional consultation, the opening panel discussion will be comprised of three affected community representatives, a senior government representative and the high-level representatives of OCHA and WFP. They will be asked to respond to the question:
"What do we mean when we say that affected communities should be at the centre of humanitarian action?"
The moderator will manage the flow of the conversation, and will voice questions proposed by participants, both in the room and connected via webcast. (Information on proposing questions using Pigeonhole Q&A platform will be provided separately to participants). |

| 13:00 14:00 | **Lunch - Refreshments Hall** |

ANNEX 2. FINAL AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

DAY ONE - TUESDAY 28 JULY - AFTERNOON SESSION

PLENARY SESSION

14:00 14:45	**Humanitarian Action in Natural Disasters - Plenary Hall** The natural disaster workshop will start in plenary with a presentation on key topics to be considered by the breakout groups. The experts panellists will each have 10 minutes to present on: • Disaster response in conflict and post-conflict settings, • Converting preparedness investments into better response and recovery, • Adapting to South-South Cooperation and regionally-led response, • Engaging all stakeholders, particularly women and youth, in disaster preparedness and response.
14:45 15:00	**Coffee Break - Refreshments Hall** (afternoon coffee/tea will be available throughout the breakout group discussions)

NATURAL DISASTER BREAKOUT SESSIONS

	Practical steps to collectively operationalize the Sendai Framework - Breakout Room A Clarifying the inter-linkages between the Sendai Conference and Framework and the World Humanitarian Summit, this breakout group will focus on how humanitarian, disaster risk reduction and development actors can better work together to follow this roadmap.	**Strengthening South-South cooperation and regionally-led response - Breakout Room D** Increasingly, South-South cooperation focused on bilateral and regional support for disaster response is changing the dynamics of humanitarian action. This breakout group will discuss what adaptations to existing tools, services and mind-sets are needed in response to this trend.
15:00 18:00	**Disaster response in conflict and post-conflict situations - Breakout Room B** This breakout group will develop proposals for how to better respond to natural disasters in conflict or post-conflict settings, and how to integrate conflict analysis and peace-building within disaster response.	**Engaging all stakeholders in disaster preparedness and response - Breakout Room E** The make-up of the humanitarian community is becoming more diverse, with an expanding number of organizations and community groups playing critical roles in humanitarian action. This breakout group will investigate ways to facilitate coordinated disaster preparedness and response between a broader spectrum of actors.
	Converting preparedness investments into better response and recovery - Breakout Room C This breakout group will look at what preparedness actually means in different contexts and how lessons learned from previous responses can be applied to new preparedness priorities and initiatives that are more effective in strengthening response, building resilience and speeding recovery.	**Mainstreaming disaster preparedness and response in gender programming - Breakout Room F** This breakout group will discuss the specific gender-based needs of affected communities, and investigate ways in which such considerations should influence preparedness and response planning and delivery to reduce vulnerability and inequality.

OFFICIAL RECEPTION

18:30 20:00	**Official Reception - Rokhat Teahouse** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan invites all participants to an official reception.

ANNEX 2. FINAL AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY 29 JULY - MORNING SESSION

08:00 08:30	**Registration of Participants - Registration Hall**

PLENARY SESSION	
08:30 09:25	**Humanitarian Financing and Humanitarian Principles - Plenary Hall** In this panel discussion, panellists will be asked to discuss issues related to humanitarian financing flows in the context of humanitarian response, with a particular focus on conflict and protracted crisis situations. The panel will be composed of: • UN agency representative • Government representative • Donor representative
09:25 09:30	**Video Message from ERC Stephen O'Brien - Plenary Hall**

	CONFLICT SUB-PLENARY SESSION	**PROTRACTED CRISIS SUB-PLENARY SESSION**
09:30 10:30	**Humanitarian Action in Conflict - Plenary Hall** This panel will frame the key issues that emerged from the preparatory stakeholder consultations. The Breakout Group Leads will explore the question of why conflicts absorb 86% of all humanitarian funding and what collectively can be done to focus humanitarian action on protection and peace-building while addressing the needs and priorities of affected people in conflict.	**Humanitarian Action in Protracted Crisis - Multipurpose Hall** Drawing upon lessons learned from stakeholders in the region, the Breakout Group Leads will focus on the question of why protracted crises continue to stretch the humanitarian system beyond its capacity and propose ways to strengthen action toward durable solutions. Each panellist will be asked to address key points for consideration during the workshop s/he will lead.

10:30 11:00	**Coffee Break - Refreshments Hall**

	CONFLICT BREAKOUT SESSIONS	**PROTRACTED CRISIS BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
	Heeding the voices and choices of affected people in conflict settings - Breakout Room A This breakout group will discuss the changes different humanitarian stakeholders need to make to better communicate with and respond to the specific needs of affected people – particularly the most marginalized – in conflict settings.	**Adapting humanitarian action to situations of protracted displacement and migration - Breakout Room D** Protracted crises present a very different set of challenges to humanitarian actors than sudden-onset disasters and conflict. This breakout group will discuss whether humanitarian actors should adapt their programming to a longer-term focus and/or how better integration between humanitarian and development efforts can deliver durable solutions for affected communities.
11:00 13:00	**Adapting the humanitarian system to focus on protection and peace-building, particularly in settings where there is denial of access - Breakout Room B** Recognizing that humanitarian action and peace-building initiatives are not well coordinated, this breakout group will look to develop recommendations on how to better integrate humanitarian action, particularly protection, and peace-building, with a specific focus on gaining and maintaining access to conflict-affected communities.	**Building local capacity in protracted crises - Breakout Room E** Reflecting the overarching focus on localization in protracted crises, this breakout group will look at what capacity building approaches are working and what new approaches can be applied to support local actors, particularly affected and host communities and the governments that serve them.
	Strengthening collective action in conflict settings - Breakout Room C This breakout group will consider the mandates and roles of the diverse stakeholders that should be engaged in preventing, responding to and resolving conflict. Recommendations will be sought as to how their respective efforts can be strengthened through better alignment, and whether there is need for a framework on humanitarian action in conflict settings.	**Facilitating durable solutions to protracted crises at a regional level - Breakout Room F** This breakout group will reflect on what durable solutions actually look like on the ground and how the collective efforts of humanitarian and development communities should better support governments and communities in the region to achieve them.

ANNEX 2. FINAL AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY 29 JULY - AFTERNOON SESSION

13:00 14:00	Lunch - Refreshments Hall	
	CONFLICT BREAKOUT SESSION	**PROTRACTED CRISIS BREAKOUT SESSION**
14:00 16:00	Heeding the voices and choices of affected people in conflict settings - Breakout Room A	Adapting humanitarian action to situations of protracted displacement and migration - Breakout Room D
	Adapting the humanitarian system to focus on protection and peace-building, particularly in settings where there is denial of access - Breakout Room B	Building local capacity in protracted crises - Breakout Room E
	Strengthening collective action in conflict settings - Breakout Room C	Facilitating durable solutions to protracted crises at a regional level - Breakout Room F
16:00 16:30	Coffee Break - Refreshments Hall	
	CONFLICT SUB-PLENARY SESSION	**PROTRACTED CRISIS SUB-PLENARY SESSION**
16:30 18:00	**Recommendations on Humanitarian Action in Conflict - Plenary Hall** The breakout group leads will constitute a panel to present the proposed recommendations on humanitarian action in conflict. Following the initial presentation, there will be a sub-plenary discussion, moderated by the workshop facilitator. The objective of the sub-plenary discussion is to put forward a focused list of actionable recommendations to the RSG for consideration for inclusion in the Chairs' Summary. Voting and/or prioritization may be incorporated within the group to arrive at a focused list of recommendations.	**Recommendations on Humanitarian Action in Protracted Crisis - Multipurpose Hall** The breakout group leads will constitute a panel to present the proposed recommendations on humanitarian action in protracted crisis. Following the initial presentation, there will be a sub-plenary discussion, moderated by the workshop facilitator. The objective of the sub-plenary discussion is to put forward a focused list of actionable recommendations to the RSG for consideration for inclusion in the Chairs' Summary. Voting and/or prioritization may be incorporated within the group to arrive at a focused list of recommendations.

	ORGANIZERS' SESSION
18:30 20:00	**Recommendations Review - RSG Meeting Room**

ANNEX 2. FINAL AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

DAY THREE - THURSDAY 30 JULY - MORNING SESSION

07:30 08:00	**Registration of Participants - Registration Hall**
08:00 08:30	**Special address by H.E. Mr. Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi, Minister of Refugees and Repatriation of Afghanistan**

PLENARY SESSION

08:30 09:00	**Chairs Summary Presentation - Plenary Hall** The Chairs of the Regional Steering Group will present the draft Summary.

STAKEHOLDER BREAKOUT SESSIONS

	Stakeholder Review of Regional Recommendations: Following the initial presentation of the Chairs' Summary, the participants will move into breakout group discussions organized by stakeholder type (i.e. government, IASC, local CSOs, affected communities and youth and academia, private sector and media). Each group will jointly review the recommendations contained in the draft Chairs Summary and discuss their relevance to their stakeholders. They will be asked to prioritize the recommendations and outline indicative commitments for follow-up action and/or strategic priorities for implementation. The sessions will be facilitated by the respective RSG members.

09:00 11:00	**Government Representatives - Plenary Hall**	Breakout groups will prioritize recommendations and propose follow-up commitments and implementation strategies for each recommendation in which the stakeholder group has a role to play.
	IASC Representatives - Breakout Room A	
	Local Civil Society, Affected Community & Youth Representatives - Multipurpose Hall	
	Academia, Private Sector & Media Representatives - Breakout Room B	

11:00 11:30	**Coffee Break - Refreshments Hall**

PLENARY SESSION (PUBLIC SESSION)

11:30 12:30	**Stakeholder Perspectives II - Plenary Hall** Five panellists, representing each of the stakeholder groups/groupings, will have five minutes each to present the key points agreed in the breakout group discussion, after which there will be a moderated question-and-answer session using the Pigeonhole programme. • Government representative, • IASC representative, • Local civil society / affected community / youth representative, • Academia / private sector / media representative. • Youth representative
12:30 13:00	**High-Level Closing Ceremony - Plenary Hall** The high-level representatives of Tajikistan, Pakistan, Aga Khan Development Network, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will each present their closing remarks.
13:00 14:00	**Lunch - Refreshments Hall**

ANNEX 3. MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL STEERING GROUP

REGIONAL STEERING GROUP

TYPE	COUNTRY	AGENCY	POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
Academia	India	Jindal School of International Affairs, Jindal University	Associate Professor	Ms. Urvashi Aneja	uaneja@jgu.edu.in
Civil Society Organization	Afghanistan	Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)	Director General	Mr. Mohammad Naeem Salimee	salimee_coarntw2009 @yahoo.com
Civil Society Organization	Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Alliance of Civil Society for Nutrition and Food Security	Chair of Executive Committee	Ms. Gulmira Kozhobergenova	gulmira-ka@yandex.ru
International Financial Institution		World Bank	Regional Coordinator for Disaster Risk Management - Europe and Central Asia	Mr. Joaquin Toro	jtoro@worldbank.org
International NGO		Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)	Diplomatic Representative to Tajikistan	Mr. Akbar Ali Pesnani	akbar.pesnani@akdn.org
International NGO		International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	Regional Coordinator	Mr. James Munn	jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org
International NGO		Islamic Relief Worldwide	Regional Humanitarian Manager - Asia	Mr. Umair Hasan	umair.hasan@irworldwide.org
Member States	Pakistan	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)	Deputy Director/ Policy	Mr. Shahzad Khurshid	dddrr2@ndma.gov.pk dio@mfa.tj
Member States	Tajikistan	Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Head of Department	Mr. Idibek Kalandarov	dio@mfa.tj idibek.kalandarov@gmail.com
Private Sector	Bangladesh	CSR Centre	Chief Executive Officer	Ms. Shahamin Zaman	ceo@csrcentre-bd.org shahaminz@gmail.com
Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement		International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Head of Operations, Asia Pacific Regional Office	Mr. Martin Faller	martin.faller@ifrc.org
Regional NGO	India	Asian Disaster Response and Reduction Network (ADRRN)	Chair	Mr. Manu Gupta	manu@seedsindia.org
Regional Organization		Organization of Islamic Cooperation	Assistant Secretary-General	H.E. Mr. Hesham Youssef	heshamyoussef@yahoo.com
UN Agency		Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Regional Representative / Regional Coordinator for Central Asia	Mr. Bernard Doyle	doyle@unhcr.org
UN Agency		United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Regional Head for Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine	Mr. Marcel Vaessen	vaessen@un.org
UN Agency		United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific	Mr. Oliver Lacey-Hall	lacey-hall@un.org
UN Agency		World Food Programme (WFP)	Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific	Mr. David Kaatrud	david.kaatrud@wfp.org
UN Agency		World Humanitarian Summit secretariat (WHSs)	Chief	Dr. Jemilah Mahmood	mahmoodj@un.org
Youth	Bangladesh	UN Major Group for Children and Youth	Representative for South Asia	Mr. Razwan Nabin	Abdullah.alrazwan@ifrc.org razwan.nabin@yahoo.com
Youth	Kazakhstan	UN Major Group for Children and Youth	Representative	Ms. Aizhan Kapysheva	kapysheva@gmail.com

ANNEX 4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS					
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Academia	Bangladesh	Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka	Director & Professor	Ms. Mahbuba Nasreen	mahbubadu@yahoo.com
Academia	India	Indian Institute of Public Administration	Senior Professor, Disaster Management	Mr. Vinod Sharma	mnasreen@univdhaka.edu
Academia	India	Jindal School of International Affairs, Jindal University	Associate Professor	Ms. Urvashi Aneja	profvinod@gmail.com
Academia	Iran	Payame Noor University	Professor	Ms. Mahshid Bashiri Maasav	uaneja@jgu.edu.in
Academia	Kyrgyzstan	Tian Shan Policy Center, American University of Central Asia	Executive Director	Mr. Kanat Sultanaliev	Via: intdep@rcs.ir
Academia	Pakistan	Center for Preparedness and Disaster Management, University of Peshawar	Director	Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Jan	sultanaliev_k@auca.kg mushtaq@upesh.edu.pk
Academia	Sri Lanka	N/A	Independent Consultant	Mr. Amjad Saleem	amjad@paths2people.com
Academia	Sri Lanka	National Peace Centre	Executive Director	Mr. Jehan Perera	jehanpc@gmail.com
Affected Community	Afghanistan	(United Nations Development Programme)	Community Representative	Ms. Lina Shinwari	leena.shinwari@yahoo.com
Affected Community	Afghanistan		Community Representative	Ms. Zuhal Talash	zuhal.talash786@gmail.com
Affected Community	Bangladesh	(Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK))	Community Representative	Ms. Syeda Nurunnahar Lovely	lovelyrotary@gmail.com
Affected Community	Kyrgyzstan		Community Representative	Ms. Urmat Korgonbaeva	Via: batken@redcrescent.kg
Affected Community	Nepal	(Technical Specialist with Microsoft Innovation Centre)	Community Representative	Mr. Pradeep Kandel	pradeepk@micnepal.org
Affected Community	Pakistan	(Pakistan Red Crescent Society)	Community Representative	Mr. Attique Ur-Rehman	rajuge1900@gmail.com
Affected Community	Sri Lanka	(ZOA International)	Community Representative	Mr. Ragavanda Alphonsus	raga@zoasrilanka.org
Affected Community	Tajikistan	(Executive Director of Rights & Prosperity NGO)	Community Representative	Ms. Najiba Shirinbekova	najib@mail.ru
Affected Community	Tajikistan		Community Representative	Mr. Muhammad Amin Muhammad Vali	Via: mavjuda_rakhmanova@yahoo.com
Affected Community	Tajikistan		Community Representative	Ms. Saida Inoyatova	dilsuz@yahoo.com
Affected Community	Turkey	(Volunteer with Turkish Red Crescent Society & Teacher-Teacher Trainer with the Ministry of Education)	Community Representative	Mr. Adnan Gulozer	agulozer@gmail.com
Civil Society Organization	Afghanistan	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development (ACBAR)	Chairman	Mr. Amanullah Jawad	jawad@nporraa.org.af
Civil Society Organization	Afghanistan	Coordination of Afghan Relief (CoAR)	Director General	Mr. Mohammad Naeem Salimee	salimee_coarntw2009@yahoo.com

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TYPE	COUNTRY	AGENCY	POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
Civil Society Organization	Bangladesh	Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust (COAST Trust)	Executive Director	Mr. M. Rezaul Chowdhury	reza@coastbd.org
Civil Society Organization	Bangladesh	Pidim Foundation	Executive Director	Mr. Advin Barun Banerjee	Pidimfoundation.bd@gmail.com hrd@pidimfoundation.org
Civil Society Organization	India	National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India (SPHERE India)	Chief Executive Offier	Mr. Vikrant Mahajan	vik@sphereindia.org.in
Civil Society Organization	Iran	Association for Protection of Refugee Women & Children (HAMI)	Executive Director	Ms. Fatemeh Ashrafi	hammiorg@gmail.com info@hamiorg.org
Civil Society Organization	Kyrgyzstan	Alliance of Disaster Risk Reduction NGOs	Executive Director	Mr. Maksat Mukambetov	adamzat.ds@gmail.com
Civil Society Organization	Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Alliance of Civil Society for Nutrition and Food Security	Chair of Executive Committee	Ms. Gulmira Kozhobergenova	gulmira-ka@yandex.ru
Civil Society Organization	Maldives	Care Society	Secretary General / Executive Board Member	Ms. Fathimath Afiya	apimv2001@yahoo.com orchidafiya@gmail.com
Civil Society Organization	Nepal	National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET)	Executive Director	Mr. Amod Mani Dixit	adixit@nset.org.np amod.dixit@nset.org.np nset@nset.org.np
Civil Society Organization	Pakistan	National Humanitarian Network (NHN)	Chief Executive	Mr. Naseer Memon	nmemon@spopk.org
Civil Society Organization	Pakistan	Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF)	Chief Executive Officer	Mr. Qazi Azmat Isa	qisa@ppaf.org.pk
Civil Society Organization	Sri Lanka	Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies	Deputy Executive Director	Mr. Firzan Hashim	depexecdir@cha.lk
Civil Society Organization	Tajikistan	Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction	Executive Director	Ms. Svetlana Jumaeva	svetlana.jumaeva@gmail.com
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Civil Society Organization	Tajikistan	Refugees, Children & Vulnerable Citizens	Executive Director	Ms. Mavjuda Rakhmanova	mavjuda_rakhmanova@yahoo.com
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International NGO		CARE International	Senior Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, CARE International Secretariat (Geneva)	Mr. Gareth Price-Jones	price-jones@careinternational.org
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TYPE	COUNTRY	AGENCY	POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
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International NGO		International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)	Regional Coordinator	Mr. James Munn	jamie.munn@icvanetwork.org
International NGO		Islamic Relief Worldwide	Regional Humanitarian Manager - Asia	Mr. Umair Hasan	umair.hasan@irworldwide.org
International NGO		Oxfam	Country Director in Turkey	Ms. Meryem Aslan	meryem.aslan@oxfamnovib.nl
International NGO		Plan International	Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Specialist, Asia	Ms. Vanda Lengkong	vanda.lengkong@plan-international.org
International NGO		Save the Children International	Deputy Central Asia Director & Head of Kyrgyzstan Office	Ms. Farogat Mirzoeva	farogat.mirzoeva@savethechildren.org
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Member States	Afghanistan	Minister of Refugees and Repatriation	Minister	H.E. Sayed Hussain Alemi Balkhi	Via: hafiz.haidari1980@gmail.com externalrelation.morr@gmail.com
Member States	Afghanistan	UN and International Conference Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Deputy Director General	Mr. Mohammad Yama Aini	mesbahulhaq.aini@gmail.com
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Member States	Bhutan	Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs	Programme Officer	Mr. Yeshi Namgyel	ynamgyel@mohca.gov.bt
Member States	Bhutan	Multilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Chief, IOD (Social & Humanitarian)	Mr. Karma Sonam Tshosar	fm@mfa.gov.bt kstshosar@mfa.gov.bt
Member States	India	National Disaster Response Force, Ministry of Home Affairs	Director General	Mr. Om Prakash Singh	hm@nic.in dg.ndrf@nic.in 128keshavkumar@gmail.com
Member States	India	Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (Geneva)	Counsellor (Humanitarian Affairs)	Mr. Anil Kumar Rai	ha.genevapmi@mea.gov.in
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TYPE	COUNTRY	AGENCY	POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
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Member States	Kyrgyzstan	Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth	Head of Unit	Mr. Chingiz Sarybaev	china198090@mail.ru
Member States	Maldives	National Disaster Management Centre	Executive Coordinator	Mr. Ahmed Rasheed	aaru.thundi@gmail.com
Member States	Nepal	National Emergency Operation Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs	Under Secretary & Chief	Mr. Baburam Bhandari	brbhandari1@yahoo.com
Member States	Pakistan	Minister of States and Frontier Regions	Federal Minister	H.E. Mr. Abdul Qadir Baloch	Via: syed.zahir691@gmail.com
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Member States	Pakistan	National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)	Deputy Director/ Policy	Mr. Shahzad Khurshid	dddrr2@ndma.gov.pk
Member States	Pakistan	Pakistan Army	General Staff Officer	Mr. Iftikhar Hassan Chaudhry	ifti30@gmail.com
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Member States	Russian Federation	Embassy of Russian Federation in Tajikistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Mr. Vladimir Tarazov	
Member States	Russian Federation	Embassy of Russian Federation in Tajikistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs		Mr. Valeriy Isatula	
Member States	Russian Federation	International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM)	Director	Mr. Alexander Romanov	ralex17@yandex.ru
Member States	Sri Lanka	Parliamentary and Civil Affairs, Ministry Of Defense	Additional Secretary	Ms. Wasantha Perera	perera.wasantha@yahoo.com
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Member States	Tajikistan	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs	Deputy Minister	Mr. Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda	Via: info@mfa.tj dio@mfa.tj
Member States	Turkey	Department of Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Head of Section	Mr. Erkan Yıldız	erkan.yildiz@mfa.gov.tr
Member States	Turkey	Prime Minister's Disaster & Emergency Management Authority	Head of Strategy Development Department	Mr. Muhammet Serdar Erbas	mserdar.erbas@afad.gov.tr
Member States	Turkey	Prime Minister's Disaster & Emergency Management Authority	Assistant Expert	Mr. Umut Kumru	umut.kumru@afad.gov.tr

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TYPE	COUNTRY	AGENCY	POSITION	NAME	CONTACT
Member States	Turkey	Prime Minister's Disaster & Emergency Management Authority	Expert, Strategy Development Department	Ms. Makbule Yalin	makbule.yalin@afad.gov.tr
Member States	Turkey	Turkish Embassy in Tajikistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ambassador	H.E. Mr. Mehmet Munis Dirik	mmdirik@mfa.gov.tr
Member States	Turkey	Turkish Embassy in Tajikistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Consul/Third Secretary	Ms. Nazli Sinem Aslam	sinem.aslam@mfa.gov.tr
Member States	Turkmenistan	Civil Protection and Rescue Operations Department, General Directorate for Civil Defence and Rescue Affairs, Ministry of Defence	Head of Civil Protection Department	Mr. Dovran Bayramov	Via: jahan.saparmamedova@undp.org nazik.myradova@undp.org
Member States	Turkmenistan	Department of International Organizaitons, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Head of Department	Mr. Charymyrat Atahanov	Via: jahan.saparmamedova@undp.org
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ANNEX 4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 5. LIST OF ORGANIZERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

LIST OF ORGANIZERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

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ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

PRACTICAL STEPS TO COLLECTIVELY OPERATIONALIZE THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK

West and Central Africa

- Governments and donors should increase the contribution of national budgets and development aid to building resilience. A potential way of going about this would be setting targets.

- The various humanitarian actors should map and review existing early warning systems within the region to improve their effectiveness and inter-linkages.

North and South-East Asia

- Learning from and building upon best practice, governments should develop comprehensive legal frameworks for humanitarian action that are more systematic at integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness, response and recovery than is currently the case in most countries, and which are multi-stakeholder, multi-level and multi-dimensional.

- All stakeholders should support the establishment of a common position on the relationship between the various intergovernmental processes taking place between now and 2016, and the World Humanitarian Summit process.

- All stakeholders should ensure that specific and measurable indicators are included in the post-2015 DRR and development processes, with emphasis on reducing the need for humanitarian response and assistance resulting from natural disasters.

- All stakeholders should ensure the compilation of stronger evidence on future risks and the economic impact of these risks in order to build a better case for more investment in and prioritization of DRR, including preparedness and early warning, and at national, regional and international levels.

- Ensure joint risk analysis, planning, financing and advocacy by humanitarian, development and climate change adaptation actors to break down the artificial silos created, and ensure greater alignment of approaches and action on DRR, including preparedness and early warning.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Promoting joint risk assessment, planning and financing between humanitarian, development and climate change communities, including through linkages with post-2015 development and disaster risk reduction processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2, HABITAT III, and the Climate Change Conference.

- Building the evidence base of the efficiency and impact of investing in disaster risk management.

- Undertaking joint context analysis by humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors, which looks at multiple risks and evolving needs faced by affected populations.

- Promoting national-level disaster risk management, including through the adoption of accountability frameworks to measure progress in meeting minimum targets.

- Reinforcing governments' management and analysis of data on the full range of risks and vulnerability.

Europe and Others

- Commit to shared, multi-hazard analysis of risk amongst all actors to support the prioritisation of action and development of long-term strategies, which include affected and at-risk communities; integrate political economy analysis and shared data; and forge greater linkages with the science community.

- Undertake a global analysis of risk between humanitarian, development and climate change communities (e.g. biannually).

- Promote potential for indicators for risk resilience across disaster risk, development and climate change frameworks and agreements.

- Through the WHS, promote active engagement of all relevant actors in the implementation of the post-2015 processes.

- Develop longer-term programming tools and innovative finance mechanisms that support resilience.

- Reduce divisions between humanitarian and development finance to ensure a more coherent approach to managing risk and vulnerabilities.

- Base funding decisions on the comparative advantage of humanitarian and development actors.

Middle East and North Africa

- Common, multi-hazard risk analysis should be encouraged, including through greater links with academia, research and development and the private sector to allow for more informed early warning and early action, both for natural and conflict related crises.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Reinforce existing and generate new capacities in the areas of knowledge and comprehensive risk management (vulnerabilities, threats and exposure), especially in urban contexts, with the aim of addressing the issue in a multidimensional manner, increasing community resilience and guaranteeing livelihoods.

- Develop joint professional training programs linked to issues of risk management and reduction that involve the different actors in humanitarian action and take advantage of the experience and capacities of the academic sector in the development of courses and programs in disaster risk reduction and attention to emergencies in university curricula.

- Medium and longer-term financing should be predictable and aimed at reducing barriers between humanitarian and sustainable development financing, focusing on actions in risk management, reduction, preparedness, building resilience and response.

- Recognise the role of development solutions in reducing vulnerability as an important element to address challenges.

- Explore the alignment of humanitarian programs with national recovery programs and how to integrate sustainable development solutions in their plans of action to ensure that the programs do not create or exacerbate socio-economic gaps in the country.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Understand the importance of market dynamics and undertake or use vulnerability and capacity assessments to establish and adjust priorities for the most appropriate time and type of assistance (cash, vouchers or other modalities) to help strengthen local markets and contribute to building resilience.

Pacific

- National governments clearly articulate their need for international assistance in a timely way, based on strengthened vulnerability analysis. International organizations respect the nature and timing of those requests.

- International partners make their approaches fit for context and scale of disasters. They work together in advance of a crisis, to ensure assistance is harmonised and delivered with appropriate restraint and in support of national and local coordination mechanisms and does not add to their burden during crisis.

- Governments and their partners invest in the implementation of Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP) and Sendai Framework. Communities, in particular women, are involved from the start in the design and implementation of initiatives to achieve SRDP and Sendai commitments.

- Donors and governments make their funding more flexible to support DRR, resilience and crisis response to allow communities to access funds for building their community resilience.

- All domestic and international development actors establish and adopt national benchmarks for investment in all phase of the disaster risk cycle. Donors initiate multi-year predictable funding for NDMOs and local organizations – particularly women's organizations – to build greater capacity to plan for and respond to disasters.

DISASTER RESPONSE IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

Latin America and the Caribbean

- The international humanitarian system needs to adapt to different contexts based on a thorough and in depth analysis of the particular characteristics of conflict contexts in contrast to disaster contexts, and its actions should aim to strengthen and complement the capacities of national and local institutions.

CONVERTING PREPAREDNESS INVESTMENTS INTO BETTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

West and Central Africa

- Governments should develop national risk management agencies, led at the Prime Ministerial level and financed nationally, which would coordinate the action of all ministries plus humanitarian and development partners, including integrated and prioritised assessment of risk and vulnerability each year.

- National governments, with international support as needed, should build the capacity of municipal and local authorities to identify, prevent and respond to humanitarian risks in urban areas, through measures including staff training, multi-hazard contingency planning and increasing the investment of municipal budgets in risk management.

- States should establish or strengthen legal frameworks that support humanitarian action, should clearly specify which government institutions are responsible for different tasks in humanitarian preparedness and response, and should provide the appropriate resources for those institutions.

North and South-East Asia

- Establish humanitarian innovation funds at the national and/or regional level, with allocations to be made available from within the existing budgets for research and development and innovation of all actors and organizations. It is proposed that these allocations should be at a minimum of 0.25 per cent for local CSOs and a minimum of 1 per cent for international organizations and governments.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Increasing the level of government investment in building resilience to disasters, in particular scaling up cash-based social protection and associated contingency finance, and setting a percentage target of GDP for this;

- Emulating good practices within the region by governments meeting a set of minimum standards for effective preparedness and response;

- Setting clear triggers for incremental response by the different layers of governments, and the international community, built around strong early warning and early action mechanisms.

- Improving speed and scale of response to catastrophic shocks by building a new global rapid response mechanism or reinforcing existing ones;

- Allocating a percentage of the budget of each international humanitarian response to build local preparedness capacities;

- Strengthening analytical capacities to understand better vulnerability in urban settings in order to prioritize investment in preparedness;

- Increasing commitment by national and local governments in integrating risk in urban planning;

- Adapting the humanitarian system and tools to better fit local urban preparedness and response;

Europe and Others

- Explore setting a target on increased funding to preparedness by 2020, including roles, responsibilities and comparative advantage of different actors.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Middle-East and North Africa

- National governments to develop and implement national legislation on emergency preparedness, including contingency plans and early warning systems, and identify the roles and responsibilities of government ministries, civil society, National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

- Integrating emergency preparedness in education curricula at all educational levels was deemed important to instilling a culture of prevention and rapid response.

- Governments should commit a certain percentage of their budgets to emergency preparedness, informed by the cost efficiency of disaster preparedness versus response.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Train local authorities in the areas of preparedness and response to disasters and crises and improve national processes and protocols for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected communities with a focus on differentiating the response based on needs and context.

- Contribute to Government plans at various levels to deepen work with the communities in areas of risk reduction and preparedness, particularly in the design of early warning systems.

- Invest in developing analytical capacity and networks at all levels to identify innovative and creative opportunities to better understand and manage disaster risk and improve the efficiency and planning of humanitarian action.

- Systematise and develop platforms for innovation in corresponding organizations. For example, organise fairs or events at the regional or national level with each country and organization undertaking exercises to prepare institutions to work in more innovative ways, taking into consideration financing for innovation, return on investment in activities related to innovation and disaster risk management.

Pacific

- Governments and partners organize regular, community-level simulation exercises to better understand informal response structures, clarify responsibilities in the event that national or international support is required and address critical gaps.

- Governments and partners work to raise awareness about DRR and preparedness in communities, building on traditional approaches. This is done by including DRR in education curricula at all levels, as well as by working with faith-based groups, private businesses and other parts of the community.

- Banks, remittance organizations and telecommunications companies consider waiving fees in an emergency, for a defined time in the wake of disaster (determined by the scale of the disaster). More investment in disaster resilient infrastructure, including mobile technology, will help to ensure remote communities can access their services when needed.

- Government and the financial sector establish pre-existing support mechanisms that will trigger in the instance of a disaster, including insurance, bridging finance, debt restructuring, tax relief and deferred payments of fees.

- Governments, with the support of technical experts, address the barriers to immediate liquidity for governments to lead disaster response and recovery. This includes exploring the comparative merits of various approaches, such as catastrophe risk insurance mechanisms, credit, budget support and increasing the size of domestically funded national contingency funds. Participants noted that regional pooled funds are not necessarily the best approach to address response and recovery.

- Civil society works to complement government efforts in community-based disaster preparedness and response, by strengthening national networks and sharing information on capacities with humanitarian partners.

- Governments clearly determine the roles and responsibilities of line ministries and sub-national government in preparedness and response, including through legal frameworks. They appoint a focal point for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation for better coordination.

ADAPTING TO SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND REGIONALLY-LED RESPONSES

West and Central Africa

- Regional mechanisms should be established to ensure that more timely and flexible funding is available for humanitarian preparedness and response, especially for national and local organizations.

- Humanitarian actors to map and strengthen regional centres of excellence for humanitarian assistance that professionalise the development of best practices and create communities of practice for key sectors. Humanitarian actors to further ensure learning and exchange on humanitarian action among these regional centres.

- Build a network for learning and exchange on humanitarian preparedness and response among regional organizations (for example, building on exchange program between ECOWAS and ASEAN).

- Humanitarian actors to build a network for learning and exchange on humanitarian preparedness and response between regional organizations.

- Humanitarian actors to have a stronger dialogue with governments on the ratification and implementation of regional humanitarian frameworks and instruments, such as the Kampala Convention. States should ratify and also implement such instruments, and put into place a national legal and policy framework favouring humanitarian action.

- Humanitarian organizations to create a regional innovation fund to help link local innovators with private sector and organizations that can help to scale up innovations.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

North and South-East Asia

- Utilise regional organizations (or similar) to create a regional network for knowledge sharing and expertise on innovation and to convene regional forums where innovations can be shared, showcased and recognized.

- Create a regional humanitarian journal on innovation to ensure the sharing of information on advancements in humanitarian innovation.

- Establish a regional-level framework that addresses the principles and ethics of innovation.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Building on regional and other initiatives to enhance the exchange of knowledge and experiences in urban risk management, including through mayors

- Removing the middle man and localizing first response by building a regional preparedness and response fund for local organizations and including finance for capacity building.

- Strengthening the role of regional bodies by establishing dedicated capacity and clear policies to ensure that the needs of pastoralists are addressed.

Europe and Others

- Create intra- and inter-regional linkages for exchanging best practice.

- Build on the experience of the EU and other regional organizations in developing mechanisms for training, preparedness and deployment of national capacities, including South-South cooperation.

Middle East and North Africa

- Governments to endorse regional instruments and mechanisms on emergency preparedness, building on lessons learnt within and outside the region.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Create or strengthen national and regional financing tools that include quicker and more flexible activation mechanisms to allow national governments to respond to small and medium scale emergencies before making an international appeal.

- Promote the establishment of regional financial mechanisms with contributions from the countries in the region and international donors.

Pacific

- Building on the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) guidelines, governments expedite entry and transit visa issue for humanitarian workers to improve timely and effective regional response.

ENGAGING ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN DISASTER RESPONSE

West and Central Africa

- Humanitarian organizations should make better use of civil-military coordination mechanisms.

- Humanitarian organizations to map and strengthen public-private partnerships that are working well in humanitarian and development settings in the region and identify how to expand and scale them up to meet humanitarian challenges.

- Humanitarian organizations, in collaboration with the private sector, to create a permanent platform for partnerships in the region, which would allow the focus of partnerships to shift from competitive to collaborative advantages (through identifying mutual benefits to cooperation), create a common framework for cooperation, and allow participating private sector entities to proactively identify resources and capacities that they could leverage for humanitarian response in the region.

North and South-East Asia

- In the same way that donors demand accountability of humanitarian actors in their programming, an open and transparent accountability framework should be put into place to measure donor performance against the GHD principles.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Strengthening government leadership with appropriate legal frameworks that articulate roles and responsibilities, and accountability at the local and national levels;

- Creating government-led coordination mechanisms with all key humanitarian stakeholders, including international partners, civil society and the private sector, and their alignment around government structures and plans;

- Building partnerships with the private sector, such as engaging telecommunication and other sectors, to enhance peoples' voice regarding their needs and whether they are met;

- Establishing partnerships with the private sector to support pastoralists in the whole spectrum of value chain creation, including in communication on weather forecast, markets and water sources;

- Supporting youth in educating and sensitizing their peers on the importance non-violence and respect to women and girls;

- Encouraging youth to advocate for social and humanitarian issues using social media;

- Building linkages between governments, humanitarian agencies and youth networks to explore practical ways that youth can support humanitarian and development agendas.

Europe and Others

- Develop better compliance frameworks and risk management that allow funding to flow to local actors, also taking into consideration accountability requirements.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Invest in their capacity to conduct needs assessment to drive response, and as long-term partners for resilience, not just as vehicles enabling international response.

- Explore a target for increasing, by 2020, the proportion of humanitarian funding to local and national actors.

- Enhance mechanisms to reinforce the quality assurance of local responders, including peer reviews.

- Provide incentives for engaging the private sector, such as through tax breaks.

- Stimulate the rapid restoration of local markets post-disaster.

- Reduce or suspend the transaction costs of remittances in the immediate post-crisis period.

- Examine opportunities to look more towards the insurance industry, including using best practice and discipline from risk financing.

Middle East and North Africa

- International humanitarian actors need to include local capacity building measures as an integral part of their programming, which will help facilitate a timely and planned exit.

- Local organizations should receive a greater portion of humanitarian funding and be able to access these directly.

- This requires decreasing inefficiencies by removing the multiple levels of sub-contracting and intermediaries, and increasing the contribution of country-based pooled funds, such as Emergency Response Funds, to national and local actors.

- Humanitarian coordination mechanisms should be made more inclusive, complementary and accessible to local organizations.

- The IASC should be reviewed and adapted to better reflect the diversity of humanitarian actors and the challenges faced within specific regions, including through its possible decentralization.

- The capacity of civil society organizations should be strengthened to better prepare for emergencies. This includes supporting more institutionalized forms of youth engagement, whose role and contribution to humanitarian action, recovery and development was widely acknowledged and commended.

- Private sector engagement in humanitarian action was encouraged with tax breaks as possible incentives.

- The culture and traditions of Islamic giving should be leveraged to support regional and local humanitarian organizations' work in the region, with several mechanisms suggested.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Promote the private sector, academia and other new actors as strategic partners to contribute to humanitarian action and support the role of the State.

- Establish Centres of Excellence to strengthen the participation of the public, private and academic sectors in generating joint training programmes and implementing innovative practices in humanitarian action.

- Use private sector tools to facilitate feedback from affected people about the quality of humanitarian assistance received and, in turn, use the information gathered to improve future programmes.

- Leverage existing national platforms and build platforms in countries where they do not yet exist to include public, private and academic sector organizations in activities to generate and strengthen community-based tools and practices to improve the quality of humanitarian action.

Pacific

- Governments ensure adherence to existing international guidelines on civil-military as well as police coordination, and Government and partners implement adequate preparedness, coordination planning and regular joint exercises with military partners for appropriate and principled support in disaster response.

- The business sector and communities be involved in the development of local and national early recovery plans. NDMOs or other relevant ministries are empowered, including through legislation, to enact early recovery plans quickly. This will also help donor funding to flow more quickly

- Government policies for engaging private sector clearly differentiate between suppliers of the essential services the community needs to function – such as power, water, finance, telecommunications and waste – the rest of the local private sector and private sector responders.

- Governments and essential services integrate business continuity planning and disaster risk reduction as combined disaster preparedness plans and conduct regular joint testing and simulation exercises.

- Governments facilitate business and community networks to record and share online information regarding local business services and community and volunteer capabilities that are available during disaster preparedness or response and how to engage with them.

- Governments formalize the representation of the private sector – both essential services and local businesses – during disaster planning, training and simulation, response and recovery.

- Governments, civil society organizations and businesses establish a joint post-disaster procurement strategy that prioritizes local private sector capabilities in reconstruction, focusing on innovation and opportunities to build back better.

- Private sector representatives develop a certification backed by a code of conduct for behaviour in humanitarian response appropriate to different industries.

- Governments consider incentivizing membership and adherence to this code, for example through tax breaks.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

MAINSTREAMING DISASTER RESPONSE IN GENDER PROGRAMMING

Europe and Others

- Update and adapt to the context and new realities, methodologies and processes for rapid needs assessment with the participation of multidisciplinary gender-balanced teams.

- Invest in the generation of evidence to inform appropriate humanitarian response, including ensuring a greater focus on generating and using gender-sensitive disaggregated data.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Develop information and disaggregated data generation tools with communities that include statistics and risk maps that are accessible and easy-to-use in the community setting.

- Prioritise actions that eliminate all forms of violence—especially sexual and domestic violence—that tend to increase in post-disaster and crisis situations and affect more vulnerable persons such as women and boys and girls in a different manner.

- Update and adapt to the context and new realities, methodologies and processes for rapid needs assessment with the participation of multidisciplinary gender-balanced teams.

- Women, boys and girls, adolescents and young people, indigenous groups and people of African descent have specific needs in situations of violence and displacement and are the most affected. As a result, they are essential both in drawing attention to and reducing this phenomenon. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and human trafficking in these contexts.

- Promote a true integration of gender equity in policies, planning, programming, and financing at all levels: facilitate increased direct, meaningful, and balanced participation of women in planning, decision making, and direct humanitarian action roles; and create and/or strengthen gender teams and focal points in emergency offices and other relevant entities. This could help eliminate stereotypes between men and women, including in regards to their capacity to engage in humanitarian action.

- Ensure effective accountability to women and girls- and all members of local communities-by: creating communication channels between relevant local, national, and regional actors; training on information management of disaggregated data; sensitizing communities, officials, and other actors on gender issues; incorporating gender equality, inclusion, and human rights approaches with existing structures, for example, through focal points; and guaranteeing sufficient resources for all these actions.

Pacific

- Humanitarian partners work to strengthen community groups that amplify the voices of women, children, youth, older people and people with disabilities and systematically involve them in decision-making.

- Community groups have a formal role within national and sub-national planning structures.

- Humanitarian partners actively seek women's leadership in disaster management. All actors work to prevent the perpetuation of existing gender inequalities.

- All relevant stakeholders support systems that mean women are direct recipients of money transfers, as well as men.

- Systems to improve financial inclusion involve women and people living with disabilities in their design.

Further issues raised in discussions which are being addressed in the synthesis report and could be raised:

- Ensuring accountability to gender equality frameworks and policies (from UN SCR Resolutions on women, peace and security to individual agency's gender policies)

- Increasing direct funding of local women's groups who are frontline providers of services but outside "mainstream" humanitarian action.

HEEDING THE VOICES AND CHOICES OF AFFECTED PEOPLE IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

West and Central Africa

- Humanitarian organizations should adapt their action, from preparation to recovery, to local conditions— including culture and the dynamics of the conflict—through participation of the population. This will enable a timelier and more adapted response, contributing to upholding dignity of affected people.

North and South-East Asia

- Local communities and their representatives need to be included in humanitarian needs assessments in conflict situations.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Engaging affected communities in the identification of underlying risk and designing programmes to address them;

- Scaling up cash transfers and social protection programmes to give affected communities the choice to determine the best way to meet their urgent humanitarian needs;

- Amplifying and listening to the voice of affected communities by engaging them in each stage of humanitarian preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation.

- Developing an integrated strategy that takes a longer term yet flexible approach to meeting the needs of affected communities, particularly in situations of protracted conflict;

- Respecting International Humanitarian Law by all parties to a conflict to ensure better protection and access to local communities;

- Systematically including protection concerns in all assessments and programming by humanitarian organizations, paying special attention to threats specific to various population groups, including women, men, boys and girls, the elderly and less able, and sharing information on trends to allow common monitoring;

- Strengthening affected peoples' and communities' capacities for self-protection by humanitarian organizations.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Enhancing dialogue by humanitarian organizations with governments, other parties to conflicts, faith leaders, diaspora and communities to enhance acceptance of humanitarian action;

- Using remote management as a last resort by humanitarian organizations because of inherent risks of aid diversion and the significant difficulty of protection, and when used to deliver life-saving assistance, ensuring that strict and robust accountability mechanisms are in place;

Middle-East and North Africa

- Addressing protection concerns should constitute an integral part of humanitarian needs assessments, including tackling the protection needs of specific groups, such as women, children, displaced persons, migrants and those with disabilities.

- Participants recognized the critical role played national authorities and civil society organizations, including the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in protecting civilians, including through applying and promoting local customs and practices in protecting civilians and disseminating information on international law to IDPs and refugees, as well as to their host communities.

- The media is also a powerful tool to be harnessed to raise awareness about IHL violations and calling for its respect.

- The role of religious leaders in providing protection and facilitating assistance was emphasized.

- International humanitarian organizations should ensure local partners are provided with access to adequate financial resources, assets and insurance schemes to ensure staff safety and security.

Latin American and the Caribbean

- Call to consider the central role of affected people and communities and their participation in finding solutions to their own challenges with a focus on differentiated and sex-disaggregated approaches based on different needs.

- Recognise the value of ancestral and traditional knowledge from populations as an important contribution to humanitarian action in the region.

- Ensure standardization of community-based diagnostics that allow for a thorough understanding of context, including "do no harm" and "Local Capacities for Peace" types of initiatives to make certain that humanitarian programming contributes to the promotion of a rights-based approach, early recovery and the promotion of peace

- Importance and role of local actors who have access to and the trust of communities in areas with limited access. International entities invited to work closely with local networks with access to affected persons and an understanding of the context dynamics.

- Managing information in a holistic and interconnected manner is fundamental to understanding the realities of affected people and to communicating information to relevant actors in order to most effectively serve affected people.

ADAPTING THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM TO FOCUS ON PROTECTION AND PEACE-BUILDING, PARTICULARLY IN SETTINGS WHERE THERE IS DENIAL OF ACCESS

West and Central Africa

- Humanitarian access should mean access of people to humanitarian goods and services, at least as much as access of humanitarian organizations to people.

- Humanitarian organizations need to interact with all parties in a conflict, transparently. This interaction must not help reinforce one or the other party in the conflict (principle of neutrality).

- Humanitarian organizations should investigate and use innovative methods of gaining access or of compensating for limited access (such as feedback by SMS or use of non-military drones).

- Humanitarian organizations to further investigate the use of innovative methods for gaining access to affected populations (examples: gaining feedback by SMS, use of non-military drones, cash transfers).

North and South-East Asia

- Existing regional institutions and networks for conflict prevention, mediation and peace-building should be strengthened, expanded and adequately resourced.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Put protection at the forefront of humanitarian response in conflicts by: Respecting International Humanitarian Law by all parties to a conflict to ensure better protection and access to local communities; Systematically including protection concerns in all assessments and programming by humanitarian organizations, paying special attention to threats specific to various population groups, including women, men, boys and girls, the elderly and less able, and sharing information on trends to allow common monitoring; Strengthening affected peoples' and communities' capacities for self-protection.

- Convening an international dialogue on this issue to remove barriers for the receipt of funds by particularly faith-based organizations and the transfer of remittances to specific countries.

- Getting governments to disseminate the provisions of (Kampala convention) treaties to their security agencies.

- Getting civil society to do the same for other stakeholders, particularly communities, humanitarian organizations and armed groups.

- Joint conflict analysis and knowledge sharing with development and peacebuilding actors was encouraged as a means to better understand and address people's needs and to be a foundation for longer term and more coherent approaches to managing risk in these settings.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Facilitating the speedy resolution of conflict by regional organizations and governments.

- Emphasizing the active role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, including mediation.

- Increasing mediators' engagement with humanitarian organizations to include consideration of humanitarian impact of conflict during peace negotiations.

Europe and Others

- Reinforce the reach of humanitarian action to forcibly displaced people, including by expanding legal frameworks such as regional conventions on internally displaced people.

- Direct more funding to reinforce the centrality of protection in humanitarian response.

- Put protection at the centre of humanitarian action.

- Encourage the role of regional frameworks to improve the monitoring of IHL violations and promote the protection and assistance of affected people.

- Obtain a commitment from governments and other actors to ensure that migrants caught in conflict are afforded adequate protection.

- Reaffirm international humanitarian law, international refugee law and the humanitarian principles.

- Engage in a dialogue with all actors, including state and non-state parties to a conflict, to highlight their responsibility for the full implementation of the range of normative frameworks and instruments—including international humanitarian law (IHL), international refugee law, human rights law, Security Council resolutions and other instruments—and advocate that all necessary steps be taken to address non-compliance thereto, including holding leaders of relevant parties accountable for such violations.

- Ensure all armed actors put procedures into place (in doctrine, training and education), including during security sector reform processes, that will result in greater respect of IHL.

- Recognize the increasing complexity of situations of generalized violence other than conflict, and their potential humanitarian impact.

- Draw on the outcomes of the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent as important contributions to humanitarian debates in the wider community.

- Call on states at the Summit to commit to enable and facilitate access of affected people to humanitarian assistance and protection, as well as of humanitarian actors to people in need.

- Explore opportunities to adapt counter-terrorism regulations to enable access of humanitarian actors, including local actors, to all conflict-affected areas and to allow engagement of all parties to a conflict.

- Call on all parties to conflict to ensure safety and security of humanitarian staff, including through bringing the perpetrators of attacks on humanitarian workers and facilities to justice.

- Provide funding, flexibly enough to enable proximity, to humanitarian actors to help support their engagement in conflict-affected areas.

- Reaffirm humanitarian principles and ensure their understanding and respect by all actors and their application by humanitarians.

- Highlight the importance of governments and the broader international community of acting urgently upon early warning and conflict prevention. Emphasise the need for greater political commitment and engagement in the resolution of conflict, and the achievement of sustained peace and security.

Middle-East and North Africa

- The international donor community was requested to ensure sufficient funding for protection activities and to support initiatives aimed at promoting respect for IHL and human rights throughout the region.

- Protection should be at the heart of humanitarian action with mechanisms for achieving this objective appropriate to each organization's mandate and strengths. Monitoring violations of IHL is required from the outset of a crisis. Addressing protection concerns should constitute an integral part of humanitarian needs assessments, including tackling the protection needs of specific groups, such as women, children, displaced persons, migrants and those with disabilities. It also requires effective coordination among different sectors. Humanitarian organizations need to enhance their capacities on protection through training and mentoring of their staff.

- Participants recognized the critical role played national authorities and civil society organizations, including the National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in protecting civilians, including through applying and promoting local customs and practices in protecting civilians and disseminating information on international law to IDPs and refugees, as well as to their host communities. The media is also a powerful tool to be harnessed to raise awareness about IHL violations and calling for its respect.

- The protection of civilians was deemed a universal principle, with frameworks and practices existing in religious and other traditions and norms from the region. There were calls to explore the synergies between these and international legal protection frameworks with the aim of developing context-specific practices and interventions that can better protect civilians on the ground. The role of religious leaders in providing protection and facilitating assistance was emphasized.

- Ratify international instruments pertaining to the protection of civilians, in particular the second Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions and the 1951 Refugee Convention;

- Establish national committees on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), where these were not yet in place, to bring relevant national legislation into conformity with international law;

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Provide IHL training for armed and police forces, as well as other relevant officials, with the support of donors and participation of humanitarian actors where relevant;

- The international community has to install a process or a mechanism by which it can hold states and non-state actors accountable and financially-liable if they deliberately cause unjustified economic or financial loss to the humanitarian sector.

- Regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to strengthen their role in the protection of civilians. This could include the adoption of regional instruments that protect and assist internally displaced persons (IDPs), building on the experience from other regions; the establishment of mechanisms to monitor violations of IHL, civilian casualties and access issues; and fostering consensus among Member States on concrete measures to protect civilians in conflicts.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Explore concrete opportunities for innovation in areas such as access by victims of violence to protection services and livelihood support, taking into account displacement and economic losses driven by environmental and climate factors.

- The importance and principal role of the state was noted as well as the utility of adopting normative and legal frameworks for the protection of all people, including internally displaced people.

- Programme planning should be approached in a holistic way, including the provision of basic services and protection to serve the needs of people affected by conflict, particularly the specific needs of different groups of the affected population. A call to consider the central role of affected people and communities and their participation in finding solutions to their own challenges with a focus on differentiated and sex-disaggregated approaches based on different needs.

- Ensure standardization of community-based diagnostics that allow for a thorough understanding of context, including "do no harm" and "Local Capacities for Peace" types of initiatives to make certain that humanitarian programming contributes to the promotion of a rights-based approach, early recovery and the promotion of peace

- Access by humanitarian actors to places with a high incidence of violence presents enormous challenges for humanitarian action, especially as those displaced in urban areas are highly mobile and often seek anonymity.

- Importance and role of local actors who have access to and the trust of communities in areas with limited access. International entities invited to work closely with local networks with access to affected persons and an understanding of the context dynamics.

- Humanitarians collaboration with armed forces during conflict should be carefully considered and adhere to the Humanitarian Principles, particularly Neutrality, in ways that effectively protect the affected populations.

- Managing information in a holistic and interconnected manner is fundamental to understanding the realities of affected people and to communicating information to relevant actors in order to most effectively serve affected people.

- Importance of having systems and tools to monitor the situation of violence and displacement and protect the identity of affected persons. The potential for a network to exchange information with a view to having better understanding of the issues.

STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE ACTION IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

West and Central Africa

- Gaining trust of parties to a conflict and also of the population is key to gaining access (even if it is not the only condition). Refusing to engage in a dialogue with some players or displaying a non-neutral position will directly impair access.

- Humanitarian partners place protection at the centre of all activities with particular attention to women's safety, dignity and security, before, during and in the wake of crises. All actors act to prevent, address and end impunity for violence against women, including sexual and gender based violence

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Establishing an accreditation system for NGOs at local, national and regional levels, especially from the global South, to allow the flow of funds.

- Facilitating the speedy resolution of conflict by regional organizations and governments.

- Emphasizing the active role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, including mediation.

- Increasing mediators' engagement with humanitarian organizations to include consideration of humanitarian impact of conflict during peace negotiations.

- Keeping the safety and security of humanitarian workers high on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, as well as addressing the issue at the country level.

- Promoting humanitarian principles by a broad set of actors, including civil society.

- Ensuring that decisions are made according to existing needs and without supporting a party to a conflict.

- Recognize space for collaboration and distinction amongst actors, as the range of actors and networks is changing, requiring a redefinition of the terms of engagement between them.

Europe and Others

- Use the Summit as a 'cry for humanity' to protect and preserve the dignity of people affected by conflict and disaster.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Identify potential game changers (e.g. emerging powers, private sector, technology and communications innovators) and their comparative advantages and terms of engagement, including: building on the comparative advantages of national and local actors; and identifying the space for action in each situation.

- Pursue dialogue on engagement and boundaries between humanitarian and political actors to define their respective roles and responsibilities, including: a) expanding humanitarian space: sovereign rights vs. sovereign obligations; b) maintaining the distinction between political, military and humanitarian objectives; c) avoiding instrumentalisation of humanitarian action (e.g. military intervention couched in humanitarian terms; and political conditionality); d) ensuring these issues are reflected in the review on UN peace operations; e) reconfirming the imperative of humanitarian dialogue with all conflicting parties possible on the basis of humanitarian principles; f) continuing ability to operate for humanitarians in the context of counter-terrorism legislation.

- Consider a global mechanism to monitor the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver response to affected populations.

- Recall the duty of parties to a conflict to respect impartial humanitarian action, including in facilitating access.

- Highlight the importance of governments and the broader international community of acting urgently upon early warning and conflict prevention.

- Emphasise the need for greater political commitment and engagement in the resolution of conflict, and the achievement of sustained peace and security.

- Make sure humanitarian action is not politicised, including as a result of the shortcoming of political action.

- Generate a strong communication campaign over the very significant challenges faced in providing humanitarian assistance and the widespread violations of IHL and international refugee law.

Middle-East and North Africa

- Monitor the application of IHL and hold perpetrators of violations accountable through the establishment of national or international mechanisms or to activate those that are already in place. Participants urged regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to strengthen their role in the protection of civilians. This could include the adoption of regional instruments that protect and assist internally displaced persons (IDPs), building on the experience from other regions; the establishment of mechanisms to monitor violations of IHL, civilian casualties and access issues; and fostering consensus among Member States on concrete measures to protect civilians in conflicts.

- Parties to conflicts, including armed groups, were urged to meet their obligations in the respect of IHL and facilitate the work of humanitarian actors, including by ensuring access and lifting restrictions that preclude their work. This requires humanitarian actors to engage in dialogue with all parties to a conflict,

including armed groups. In line with IHL, this engagement for legitimate humanitarian purposes should be encouraged and not criminalized.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Stakeholders need to carefully understand their roles in relation to the state, armed forces, parties to the conflict and non-combatants in situations of conflict. A concerted effort can be made to provide responsible technical support to governments in order to further promote a differentiated approach and ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law.

ADAPTING HUMANITARIAN ACTION TO SITUATIONS OF PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

West and Central Africa

- Wherever possible, the humanitarian community should avoid encouraging displaced people to congregate in camps by offering alternate aid delivery venues, like supporting them in host communities.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Harnessing the potential of diaspora and economic migrants in support of humanitarian action, including through financial contributions;

- Scaling up durable solutions for internally displaced and refugee populations, including the option of early integration into host communities and building the necessary local capacity to enable this.

- Joint conflict analysis and knowledge sharing with development and peacebuilding actors was encouraged as a means to better understand and address people's needs and to be a foundation for longer term and more coherent approaches to managing risk in these settings.

Europe and Others

- Obtain a commitment from governments and other actors to ensure that migrants caught in conflict are afforded adequate protection.

- Call for early and increased development investment in addressing protracted displacement.

- Determine and acknowledge the humanitarian dimension of mixed migration.

Middle East and North Africa

- Increased burden sharing of hosting refugees by the international community and the need to ensure a holistic approach to the management of crises, including planning for future displacement.

- The psychosocial impact of violent conflict and protracted displacement was recognized and targeted support needed to be integrated in the response, in particular for women, the elderly and children.

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States (LAS), Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to strengthen their role in the protection of civilians. This could include the adoption of regional instruments that protect and assist internally displaced persons (IDPs), building on the experience from other regions; the establishment of mechanisms to monitor violations of IHL, civilian casualties and access issues; and fostering consensus among Member States on concrete measures to protect civilians in conflicts.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- LAC has a regional legal framework for refugees—The Cartagena Declaration—that is recognised as a global model used by other regions to address refugee issues. Participants recognised the importance of having national and regional normative frameworks for these issues, especially for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Pacific

- Governments ensure that people are educated about risks so they can make informed decisions about whether to remain where they live or relocate to safer areas.

- When people cannot or choose not to stay where they live, governments, community leaders and faith groups support voluntary and dignified migration or relocation. This is done in a planned, organized and participatory manner.

- Governments develop and implement national and regional toolkits and policies on the protection of internally displaced persons, including in urban contexts. Durable solutions are needed. This includes addressing customary and ancestral land issues.

- All humanitarian partners mainstream displaced persons' special protection needs, including those related to gender, age and disability, into humanitarian programming.

- Governments and international partners strengthen national, provincial and local capacities and support communities to be better prepared for displacement, including mitigation measures against adverse effects in host communities.

- All humanitarian actors ensure that traditional leadership structures and traditional ways of mediating conflict are drawn upon to support displaced and host communities. This does not undermine the importance of considering gender, age and disability considerations.

- All humanitarian actors offer culturally appropriate psychosocial support to displaced people.

- Governments and development partners find durable solutions to address climate change, disaster and conflict-induced displacement. They involve communities and to help alleviate climate change impacts.

- Ministries of Finance work with banks, remittance agencies and telecommunications companies to develop a widely and publicly accessible format for reporting all sources and destinations of financing for disaster preparedness and response, including remittances, private flows and international aid, as a means

to increase accountability to affected people and assist aid providers target their funds better. Latin America and the Caribbean

- Explore concrete opportunities for innovation in areas such as access by victims of violence to protection services and livelihood support, taking into account displacement and economic losses driven by environmental and climate factors.

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY IN PROTRACTED CRISES

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Scaling up durable solutions for internally displaced and refugee populations, including the option of early integration into host communities and building the necessary local capacity to enable this.

Middle East and North Africa

- Actors should address the needs of host communities in response planning and use humanitarian and development approaches, in line with national and local priorities.

- Participants called for the scaling up of efficient and coordinated cash-based programming to provide people with greater choice and for including temporary employment opportunities as part of response programming.

- Development interventions should come at an early stage and include support to the local economy and making investments in basic services and infrastructure that benefit both the displaced and their hosts.

FACILITATING DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO PROTRACTED CRISES AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

West and Central Africa

- In order to strengthen humanitarian assistance and protection, and also allow the strengthening of national institutions and preventative measures, humanitarian actors should have a stronger dialogue with governments on the ratification and implementation of regional humanitarian frameworks and instruments, such as the Kampala Convention. States should ratify and also implement such instruments, and put into place a national legal and policy framework favouring humanitarian action.

North and South East Asia

- The development of regional conventions for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons and migrants should be proposed for inclusion in the Secretary-General's report to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

Eastern and Southern Africa

- Achieving greater multi-year and risk tolerant investment by donors;

ANNEX 6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

- Adjusting coordination mechanisms in different contexts to better address multifaceted short and longer term needs of affected communities, particularly displaced populations and host communities.

Europe and Others

- Promote integrated programme planning with the participation of affected communities, based on shared analysis and common outcomes.

- Complete common risk analysis and planning in at least 3 countries by 2016, including exit strategies for humanitarians and investment plans for longer-term resilience, thus allowing seamless implementation. Introduce incentives to reinforce co-operation between these two communities.

- Reinforce the reach of humanitarian action to forcibly displaced people, including by expanding legal frameworks such as regional conventions on internally displaced people.

Middle East and North Africa

- International finance institutions were encouraged to provide investments under favourable terms to help middle income countries rapidly shoulder the burden of refugees.

- A network of academic and training institutes should be established and supported within the region to develop management and technical expertise in crisis management.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- LAC has a regional legal framework for refugees—The Cartagena Declaration—that is recognised as a global model used by other regions to address refugee issues. Participants recognised the importance of having national and regional normative frameworks for these issues, especially for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).

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