



Call for panels

29th Annual Meeting

Engagement of crisis-affected people in humanitarian action

11-12 March, 2014

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

hosted by African Humanitarian Action



The 29th Annual Meeting

Engaging crisis-affected people in humanitarian action

ALNAP's 29th Annual Meeting, hosted by African Humanitarian Action, will take place in Addis Ababa from 11 to 12 March 2014. Over two days, the meeting will address the topic of *Engaging crisis-affected people in humanitarian action*. The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Identify '**who is doing what**' on the theme of engagement of affected people in humanitarian response.
- Share and improve understanding of the **benefits and challenges** of engaging affected people in humanitarian response.
- Share and improve understanding of **best practice in developing and implementing approaches** for engaging affected people in humanitarian response.
- **Identify system-wide actions** required to improve the engagement of affected people in humanitarian response.
- Identify **actions that individual organisations can take** to improve the engagement of affected people in humanitarian response.

ALNAP's Annual Meetings provide a key forum for humanitarian actors to share experiences and learning around emerging issues relevant to international humanitarian action. Recent meetings have focussed on: Innovation in humanitarian action; The role of national governments in international humanitarian response; Adapting humanitarian response to an urban world; and Evidence and knowledge in humanitarian action.



29th Annual Meeting

Engagement of crisis-affected people in humanitarian action

11-12 March 2014
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) was established in 1997, following the multi-agency evaluation of the humanitarian response to the Rwanda genocide.

ALNAP is a collective response by the humanitarian sector, dedicated to improving humanitarian performance through increased learning and accountability.

A unique network, ALNAP incorporates most of the key humanitarian organisations and experts from across the humanitarian sector. Members are drawn from donors, NGOs, the Red Cross/Crescent, the UN, independents and academics.

ALNAP uses the broad range of experience and expertise within its membership to produce tools and analysis relevant and accessible to the humanitarian sector as a whole.



Call for panels

The ALNAP Secretariat, on behalf of the Network, invites representatives of communities affected by crises, humanitarian practitioners, academics, and other suitably qualified individuals and organisations to propose and organise panels at the 29th ALNAP Annual Meeting.

Presentations should focus on new learning and emerging best practice related to the topic of *Engaging crisis-affected people in humanitarian action*.

Panels should last for 90 minutes, and should include a maximum of three presentations. No presentation should last for more than 20 minutes, to allow space for discussions following the presentations.

The selection committee is particularly keen to encourage panels which include presentations made by representatives of crisis-affected communities. Presentations can be made in person; by (pre-recorded) film or audio; or by other means (such as exhibitions of photographs or artwork). Due to bandwidth restrictions, it will probably not be possible to stream film or audio to the venue. Panel organisers are requested to arrange for translation, where required. ALNAP has limited funding to support the travel costs of these representatives, and would encourage member organisations, wherever possible, to support the travel costs of project partners or community representatives.

Financial assistance to attend the meeting will only be available for representatives of crisis-affected communities.

Panels may be on any topic relevant to the theme of the meeting. The following topics have been suggested, and the selection committee will prioritise panels which focus on one or more of the following topics.

Panel topics:

- The benefits of engagement – what is the evidence that engagement improves humanitarian response? How does engagement improve response?
- Challenges to engagement – systemic, structural and cultural obstacles to broader engagement in humanitarian action; and approaches to change
- Engagement in assessment – challenges and best practices
- Engagement in project design – challenges and best practices
- Engagement in monitoring and feedback – challenges and best practices
- Engagement in evaluations – challenges and best practices
- How can new information and communications technology support engagement?
- Engaging with urban populations
- Engagement through civil society organisations: experiences of partnership and capacity development
- Who participates? The challenge of engagement in stratified societies and societies in conflict
- Engagement and culture: negotiating cultural differences
- The politics of engagement: international actors, civil society, empowerment, and the state.

In order to generate the most wide-ranging and comprehensive discussion, the selection committee will also prioritise panels which include representation from a variety of ALNAP Member organisations, and – ideally – from more than one of ALNAP's constituencies (Academics; Donors; NGOs; Red Cross/ Crescent; United Nations).

Colleagues proposing panels are requested to ensure that presenters have confirmed that they will attend the meeting (should the panel be accepted) before listing them in the proposal.



To suggest and organise a panel

Individuals or organisations wishing to organise and host a panel at the Meeting should complete the **ONLINE FORM** by **2 December 2013**.

The ALNAP Secretariat will contact all those submitting abstracts to inform them as to whether their panel has been selected.

Judging from previous experience, there may be significant competition for the 12 available panel slots. Should similar panels be proposed, the selection committee may liaise with those organising to see if it is possible to merge panels.

Those hosting panels will be expected to provide a written (not PowerPoint) abstract of up to 1,500 words from each presenter on the panel outlining the key elements of each presentation by 31 January 2014.

Further information

Requests for further information related to this call for panels should be addressed to alnap@alnap.org.



203 Blackfriars Road
London, UK, SE1 8NJ
Tel: +44 (0)20 3327 6578
Fax: +44 (0)20 7922 0399
alnap@alnap.org
www.alnap.org