EHF side-event
“Joining Humanitarian and Development forces to respond to Protracted Crises”
Concept note

Description:
As reaffirmed by the European Commission in its March 2021 Communication on “the EU’s humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles”, humanitarian aid on its own cannot respond to the scale and magnitude of the needs arising from conflicts and other crises. To achieve sustainable impact, humanitarian action must be complemented by development agencies. Greater synergies between development and humanitarian actors, including before and after a crisis, are therefore instrumental but such collaboration cannot be at the detriment of the humanitarian principles.

Building on the EU’s call to advance the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, this side-event will present a collection of field-based illustrations of collaboration between leading organisations in the humanitarian and development sectors. Authors of the joint UNICEF-WB-ICRC Report “Joining forces to Combat Protracted Crises” will share recommendations and lessons learned from their experience in the water and sanitation (WASH) sector in urban areas affected by crises in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

While based on experience in the WASH sector in MENA, the general findings and recommendations of the report apply far beyond this field and region. The report unpacks the HDP nexus by identifying the tangible benefits of a more effective collaboration between humanitarian and development actors with the promise of delivering a more sustainable humanitarian impact, while bolstering the emergency response. Leaving funding considerations aside, the report focuses on practical ways to forge a strong partnership with a common purpose to strengthen the resilience of essential service providers and the systems they operate and maintain, while not compromising humanitarian principles.

This presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion with representatives of the EU’s humanitarian and development arms (DG ECHO and DG INTPA) on ways to leverage and strengthen EU’s policies, programmes and tools so as to generate enhanced synergies between humanitarian and development actors while upholding humanitarian principles to ensure more durable solutions for affected people. This exchange will feed into further discussions at the European Humanitarian Forum, with concrete recommendations related to the HDP nexus.
Date: Thursday 20 January 2022, 4:00-5:30 PM

Location: Online (Webex)

Format: 90 min in total

- **Opening speech** (5-10 min): Dr. Danilo Türk, President of the Global High-Level Panel on Water & Peace (TBC) sets the scene and highlights some of the challenges at stake.

- **Presentation of the report** (20 min)
  - Dominick Revell de Waal (WB) presents the report and its main findings (10 min)
  - Omar El Hattab (UNICEF) & Michael Talhami (ICRC) touch upon selected challenges experienced and share practical recommendations relevant for the EU (10 min)

- **Panel discussion** (30 min)
  - Content: Discussion about the way forward in EU’s effort to link humanitarian and development aid in the form of a series of prepared short questions and answers creating interaction between speakers.
  - Speakers:
    - Michael Köhler, Deputy Director General, DG ECHO
    - Philippe Jacques, Head of Sector "Resilience, Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding", DG INTPA
    - Jennifer Sara, Global Director, Water Global Practice, World Bank
  - Moderator: Eva Svoboda, Deputy Director of Law and Policy, ICRC

- **Q&A** (15 min): Moderator distributes questions from the online audience to all speakers (panel + authors)

- **Closing remarks** (5 min): Dr. Danilo Türk (TBC) gives short closing remarks highlighting possible next steps feeding into the EHF.