



EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM 2023

Brussels, 20-21 March

#EHF2023

NEW GLOBAL REALITIES | Shaping humanitarian action together



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HQ WARM-UP SESSION

Climate-Induced Crises: Taking Stock of Current Risks and Responses

Monday 13 February 2023, 15:00-16:30 CET

Venue: online

Overview

- Over 160 participants joined the session online.
- Three participants put forward questions. All questions were addressed (two which touched upon the same topic were merged). Questions included the following:
 - What can we do to shift the mindset of the donor community to strongly enforce anticipatory action instead of waiting for humanitarian response? We have so many projections on the effects of climate change, but we are currently not taking appropriate actions.
 - Political engagement and bold action are crucial to change the current trend to reduce development budgets at MS level, and very little translation of AA pledges to funding practices. How will the EU be looking to press for the political mandate needed to address this?
- EHF and outcome document reflecting the debate announced during the event.

Meeting notes

Abdirahman Abdishakur Warsame, Special Presidential Envoy for Drought Response, Federal Government of Somalia

- Recurring problem of activities that undermine our resilience. Climate change is worsening an already critical situation resulting from years of missed development opportunities.
- Finance to enable the green transition, donor fatigue and raising humanitarian needs despite the efforts.



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- Humanitarian assistance: reconnect our emergency response today with the needs of affected communities tomorrow, so that when disasters strike, communities can rely on their own forces. Timely action and funding for medium and long-term resilience are key.
- At the moment, we are not empowered to plan what comes after saving lives.
- Explore funding options: we are losing our rural communities, no other option than to abandon traditional ways of life. Not only IDP but also rural communities.
- Another issue is how to rebuild our cities to adapt to extreme temperatures.
- Investing in calamity resilience means investing in civil society.
- A matter of dignity: climate crisis is traumatizing societies, particularly for those relying on agriculture in their ancestral home.
- Connecting immediate needs with long-term structural solutions: it is important to introduce new legislation at the federal level but financial needs cannot be met by us alone (see Somali's mismanaged natural resources and poor infrastructure).
- Appeal to work with them both today and in the future. References to colonial past.
- It is about accountability and solidarity, not only a humanitarian duty
- Mismanaged consequences of climate change can offer breeding ground for armed groups and violence.

Perrine Piton, Coordinator, Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS)

- Important not to focus only on labels but to look at the long-term impacts of interventions and policies.
- NGO consortia have acted as platforms focused on learning and adaptation approaches. They are using competition within a collaborative framework to incentivise the scaling of good practices among them.
- Process to empower local leadership: building EWS becomes a transformational process, local communities become more aware of what is happening and how this is amplified by CC or bad practices, conflict, or displacement. They become more aware also of how to mobilise resources.
- It is not just about the mechanisms but also about building awareness and shared practices together.
- Fragilities accumulate when we miss the resilience target, vicious cycle.

Carina Bachofen, Director (a.i.), Climate Centre, Red Cross Red Crescent

- HD Nexus: how to make it work? How to manage risks in the medium?
- Overlap between the delivery of humanitarian aid and investment in long-term development.



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- Competition over limited resources, resources, need to overcome the current siloed approach and improve coordination. Overlapping risks reinforce the need for us to work together.
- Bring new actors to the field: complex landscape which requires the creation of system that functions in a context of dynamic and volatile risks, not only related to climate.
- The humanitarian system has become more anticipatory than ever before. Wealth of locally-led actions, that are identified at the local level and are linked to specific localized funds.
- But currently AA is largely funded by humanitarian funding and this is not enough. The funds should flow ex ante. We also need concurring investment based on security information, localised action, investment in supporting coordination among actors, and that we work on capacity building at the local level.
- Humanitarian funding should also be more in line with long-term development interventions. The State of Play report shows how this can be done.
- Example of long-term resilience building: the Pan-African Zero Hunger initiative

Sylvie Wabbes, Agronomist and Resilience Advisor, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Embed long-term resilience investments in humanitarian action.
- Resilience as a process to build four essential capacities: prevent, anticipate, absorb and adapt in a context of “cascading” crises.
- Promote a shared understanding of climate risks and impact. At the moment we react with too little and too late.
- More should be done on prevention and risk reduction: growing suffering in terms of poverty and loss and damage. And it important to work in this fields across systems and sectors.
- Issue of vocabulary: we need to use a common terminology to refer to solutions, too, and not just when it comes to naming hazards. At the moment we call the same solutions differently. When it comes to adaptation resilience and transformation, we are not together.
- Tracking risks and impact in terms of monitoring and analysis of vulnerability: this is a big area of work that should be shaping any action on the ground and decision making at all levels.
- Work on infrastructures: e.g. the whole body of work on infrastructure after Bangladesh focused on climate-proofing infrastructures (same for earthquakes). Nature-based solutions that differ based on the context and sector.
- The same should be done with social protection schemes, it is a development tool but we should promote it as a risk management tool. But very often we work in silos.



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- In addition to investment in risk reduction in all sectors (energy, infrastructure and social policies), we also need appropriate governance structures leading to collaborative (and not only collective) outcomes.

Q&A

Q: What can we do to shift the mindset of the donor community to strongly enforce anticipatory action instead of waiting for humanitarian response? We have so many projections on the effects of climate change, but we are currently not taking appropriate actions.

CB:

- Clarify how the humanitarian and development assistance budget can be complementary.
- We need investment in local capacity to take that actions based on EW, this is line in development investments.
- We need to clearly outline the allocation of tasks among different tasks and act together.
- Partnerships as a tool: e.g. Anticipation Hub where see this “whole of us” approach to ensure a coordinated response.

PP:

- Labelling issue, a lot of the programming has this element incorporated but it is important to look into what this is referred to. More can be done, using the existing funding to leverage community, diaspora or private sector funding to contribute to building capacity locally.
- Practice of using small grants to fund local groups and CSO with small amount of money can make things progress at that level.
- Build strong links between resilience and localised action, taking a bit more risk on the donor side but give them the opportunity to own the process.
- Not necessarily more money but more coordinated and better streamlined.

SW:

- AA is a good platform but it is not enough, we need to do much more on prevention.
- Take a look at the UN Common Guidance on Resilience promoting a multi risk and impact management approach across systems and sectors and by all HDP and climate and finance actors (at <https://www.sparkblue.org/resiRience-guidance.>).
- Across systems and by all actors we must apply a suite of complementary and mutually supportive disaster and climate risk and impact management actions, including, for example, for the agrifood systems:



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- Agro-climatic and disaster/crisis risk information systems, including food security information systems such as the IPC (and CH).
- Multi-risk Early Warning systems with actionable alerts
- Anticipatory Action (linking to emergency preparedness and response)
- Risk and crisis governance and finance (including investments)
- Vulnerability, risk reduction and diversification measures at field levels (including livelihoods diversification)
- Risk proofing of infrastructures along the food value chain
- Risk transfer and social protection mechanisms, specifically cash transfers, risk-informed and shock-responsive social protection, and insurance
- Nature-based solutions, including territorial and ecosystems and natural resource management
- Reducing food loss and waste
- Inclusive, resilient and healthy diets.

Q: These clear messages require political engagement and bold action to change the current trend to reduce development budgets at MS level, and very little translation of AA pledges to funding practices. How will the EU be looking to press for the political mandate needed to address this?

PP: putting these countries in a special category where we develop special tools and make them a case study to test a system and coordinate, while it could be difficult to change the system all at once. Can we make them special cases and build a different system for them and then scale it up if it works?

CB: context matters, the landscape requires better coordinated action, development and humanitarian actors working hand in hand, start doing things differently, climate and compound risk analysis.

SW: one team in protracted crisis situation, DG ECHO or DEV should have country-focused teams and blend in, understanding the multiple impacts and plan for the long term. From the decision making to the programming to the implementation.

Incentivise EU decision makers to move towards this target and deliver message during the forum.