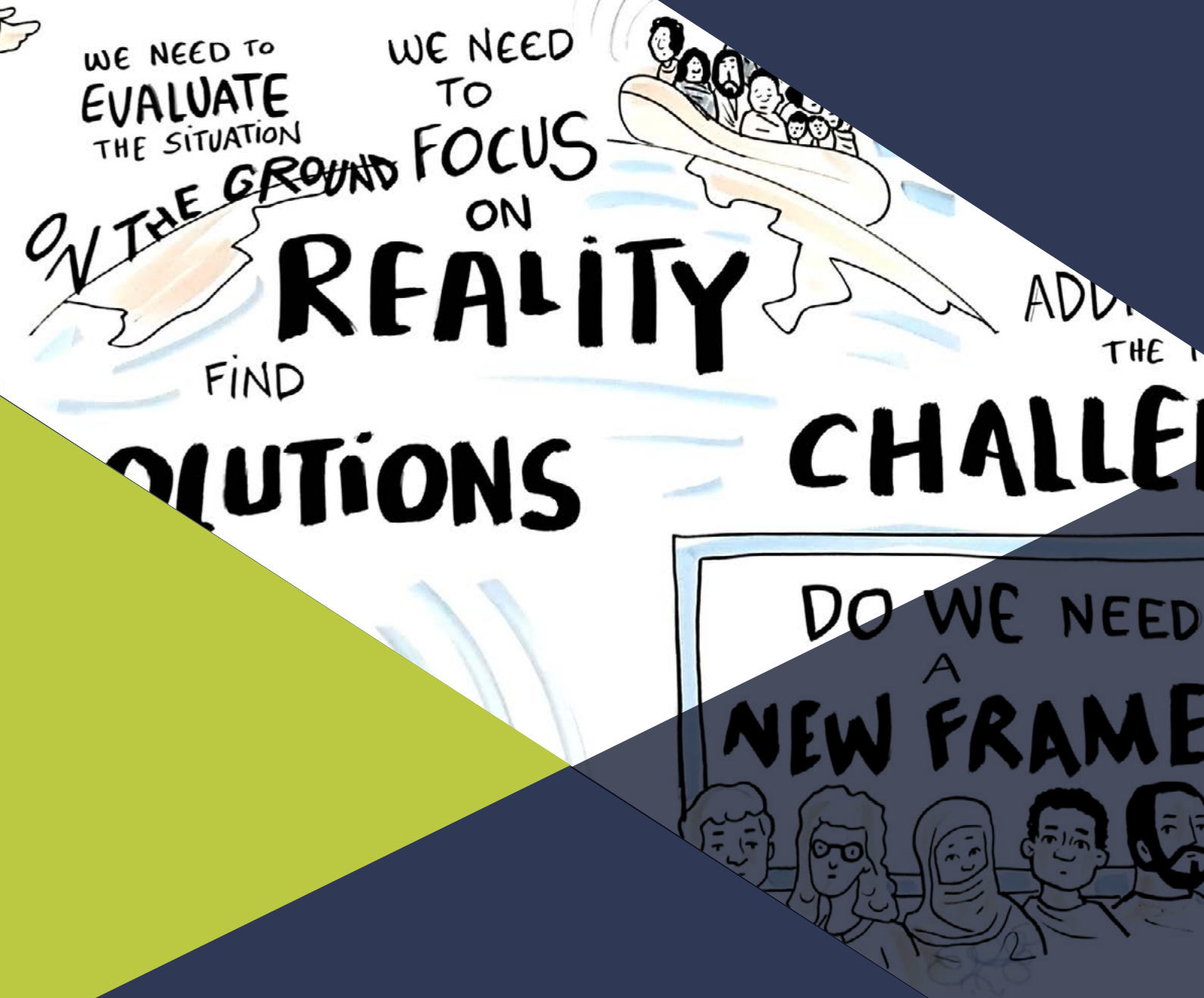


WE ALL HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES



WORLD
HUMANITARIAN
ACTION
FORUM 2017



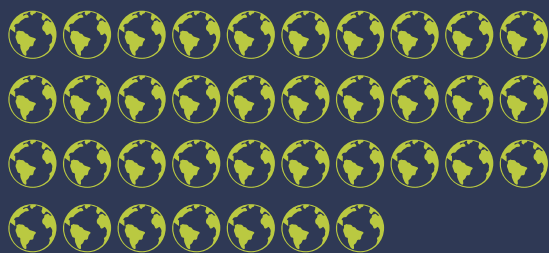
World Humanitarian Action Forum

Summary Report 2018



37

Countries represented



35

Number of WHAF partners



230

Overall number of delegates



NGOs

Non-Government Organisations



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Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the support of The Humanitarian Forum founders, the World Humanitarian Action Forum Working and Steering Groups, our staff, volunteers and all the participants who provided insightful discussions and their expertise for effective dialogue at the Forum.

We would like to thank our partners who made The World Humanitarian Action Forum possible through their expertise, time and support:

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



IN COLLABORATION WITH



Goals and objectives of the Forum



On the 28th of November 2017, representatives from INGOs, local and national NGOs from the global 'North' and 'South', public sector officials, philanthropists, donors, academia, and the media met in London for the first World Humanitarian Action Forum (WHAF).

WHAF aimed to enhance partnership and coordination amongst humanitarian actors and provided an opportunity for participants to share effective humanitarian practices and responses, tackling pertinent issues especially those affecting local and national NGOs from the global 'South'. This was key, as the WHAF initiative stemmed from the post-World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) 2016 process.

The Humanitarian Forum, with a variety of stakeholders including affected communities, the private sector, government representatives, INGOs, national NGOs and grassroots organisations, found that multiple parallel

humanitarian crises of the last decade imposed several challenges to the traditional humanitarian system. One in particular, was that despite increasingly open political contexts taking shape across parts of the Southern hemisphere, civil society organizations (CSOs) still had a very limited influence on policy making.

Collective agreement is required on regional priorities and mechanisms for organising humanitarian responses that promote long-term thinking. For NGOs, there is a clear recognition of the need to better connect with other responses through operational partnerships.

Building a broader support base through engagement with more diverse stakeholders is essential to strengthen the acceptance, perception and relevance of humanitarian aid. The WHAF injected momentum for reinforced partnership and coordination amongst humanitarian actors in the global 'North' and 'South' post-WHS and enhanced coherence in humanitarian response.

The Forum's key objectives were to:

1. Develop strategies for informing policy on key issues affecting humanitarian organisations particularly those from the global 'south'
2. Develop joint initiatives and campaigns for collaborative working at local, national and international levels

The WHAF provided added value by being:

Managed by partners: The initiative was led by a working group consisting of several key partners. Steering groups set up for each roundtable developed the key issues affecting the sector.

Action orientated: WHAF facilitates discussion around what needs to be done to improve efficacy in humanitarian work. These recommendations are then translated into campaigns and initiatives.

Collaborative approach: WHAF partners agree on joint campaigns and issues to address throughout the year thus facilitating improved coordination and cooperation in humanitarian work

The Forum drew over 230 delegates, including 97 international delegates representing organisations from the global 'South'. It was important that conversations and recommendations were both balanced and inclusive, taking into account the voice of communities, organisations and beneficiaries from the Southern Hemisphere.



The day included a plenary and closing session and three parallel roundtable sessions led by a number of organisations. Roundtable discussions provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences on how actors could influence policy engagement strategies on issues such as de-risking and financial access, conflicts and crises, and the localisation agenda.

Participants were able to attend one of the roundtables on:

1. De-risking and Financial Access: Shared Risk, Shared Responsibility
2. Localisation Agenda: Sustainable Investment and Core Capacity
3. Conflicts and Crisis: Forced Migration and Protection with a Gender Based Violence (GBV) focus

Prior to delegates breaking out to their roundtable groups, the opening session provided a time to reflect on the key purpose of the Forum. Dr Hany El-Banna, President of The Humanitarian Forum

stressed that the WHAF had a vision and mission to accomplish; to try to measure its impact on the humanitarian sector and help the humanitarian sector to grow, to be protected and to flourish. A distinguished speaker from one of the UN agencies stressed that "it was important for organisations to continue to work together in the future in order to protect the humanitarian space against politicisation and polarisation, and for organisations not to give up in the face of challenges". This was clearly evident by the involvement of 35 partners and collaborative organisations who made the WHAF initiative possible and continue to take its message, actions and recommendations forward.

In conclusion, this summary report presents the key themes, ideas and recommendations that emerged from the day of the Forum, along with indications of some future campaigns and activities. It highlights how the WHAF successfully achieved its key objectives, which bodes well for upcoming discussions and similar initiatives.

'It was important for organisations to continue to work together in the future in order to protect the humanitarian space against politicisation and polarisation, and for organisations not to give up in the face of challenges'.

Speaker from one of the UN agencies



(R-L) Ben Ramalingam, Kate Yarlett, Halima Adan, Regina Antequisa, Nils Carstensen

Panel Speakers:

Nils Carstensen – Senior Advisor at Local2Global Protection and DanChurchAid (Chair),
Regina Antequisa – Executive Director at ECOWEB, **Halima Adan** – Project Coordinator at Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), **Kate Yarlett** – Project Manager for WHS follow-up Policy Branch, UNOCHA, **Ben Ramalingam** – Research Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies

Morning plenary

The future of humanitarianism

The Forum also provided a space to discuss the future of humanitarianism and set the scene for the roundtable sessions.

The present architecture of the humanitarian system has been part of centuries of unequal relationships between the North and the South; the developing and powerful countries. When we talk about the future of humanitarianism, we should not only be concerned with the immediate needs of communities affected by disaster, we

should also enable these communities to address the historic, economic and political roots of these vulnerabilities.

In terms of gaps and continued areas of focus in the future, the number one priority is to push for preventing and ending conflict by continuing to hold Member States to account for their primary responsibility.

The untapped potential of technology also holds a critical role in the future

of the humanitarian sector. The most transformative technologies are those that rethink the relationships in any system, particularly between the powerful, well-resourced and the marginalised.

The future of humanitarianism also lies in keeping ambition high and the power of shared vision, through a collective of where actors want to be in the next 5 to 10 years, what scale of change is required, and what actors need to be involved to make that happen.

We need to remember that the future of world humanitarianism should not be separated from the issue of injustice, inequality and power imbalance and the vulnerabilities of the most vulnerable countries. A pertinent statement by one of our speakers affirmed that

people's' rights and capacities should not be forgotten and the framework of sustainable development should involve capacity-strengthening of communities and local actors.



WHAF Roundtable Discussions

The following section highlights the key discussions and outcomes produced from each of the roundtable sessions and what the next steps will be in order to produce tangible and concrete actions.

1. De-risking and Financial Access: Shared Risk, Shared Responsibility

The roundtable on de-risking and financial access was led by Humanitarian Policy Group at The Overseas Development Institute (ODI), The Humanitarian Forum and The London School of Economics, supported by Islamic Relief Worldwide, Al Rayan Bank, Human Appeal, Al Khair Foundation, Human Security Collective and Charity and Security Network.

Due to a growing fear of terrorism and in seeking to combat financial crime, some banks have removed the bank accounts of customers or have withheld services from people or regions that they associate with high risk. The non-profit sector, including humanitarian organizations that operate in conflict zones, has been particularly targeted and harmed by these measures.



As a result of this emerging trend, the roundtable was held to address impact of de-risking on humanitarian organisations.

The roundtable discussions consisted of three 90-minute sessions. They explored:

- Bank de-risking compliance regulations in Europe and the US and available channels (if any) for legal recourse
- Implications of bank de-risking on humanitarian organizations and their coping strategies
- How to avoid the adverse effects of de-risking while not increasing vulnerability to financial crime and terrorism

Outcomes

De-risking relates to three components: access to bank accounts; access to wider finance; and the ability to transfer money, particularly to areas where banks had withdrawn services. It explains the trend in financial institutions terminating or restricting business relationships to avoid rather than manage risk. This is an established trend, with complex drivers, including concerns of running afoul of regulatory environments, which has shifted the risk-reward calculus away from banking to non-profit organisations.

The first session highlighted the problem of de-risking, the regulations and the difficulties facing the non-profit sector. With the failure of a traditional banking system in some countries, NGOs have resorted to other routes for transferring funds, such as the Hawala system. This is highly context specific, with an historic and reputable system in Somalia contrasting with the emergence of money brokers in Yemen.

It is a complicated situation where private actors such as World-Check have added 240,000 people to their list each year. This has been used for banks to label people a threat or high risk. With legal recourse being difficult and expensive, many organisations and/or individuals could not pursue legal action in the vast majority of cases.



(R-L) Andrea Hall, Justine Walker, Sherine El-Taraboulsi

‘A report from Reuters in 2017 found that 300 charities in the UK had their bank accounts closed in the last two years...’

De-risking Roundtable Session, WHAF 2017

The impact of de-risking for Syria-related humanitarian activities, for example, has led to the emergence of a two-tier system. Civil society and humanitarian organisations that are big enough to address de-risking are able to survive, while smaller organisations who are not able to address the effects of de-risking face an adverse impact.

Organisations had revealed how de-risking was preventing them fulfilling their duties to their beneficiaries, as they were delivering low-quality services due to restrictions on their funding. Therefore, it was critically important to address de-risking to ensure that effective humanitarian responses were being made on the ground.

While banks and NGOs have started to come together to address these issues, “it was important to push forward to say that the system was broken, and that a few minor tweaks would not solve it. It had to be recognised as a bigger issue”, Panellist.

A speaker highlighted that the way forward could be through NGOs engaging in lobbying and awareness building with policymakers, FATF, with their local governments and financial sectors. This can be problematic however, because of the difficulty to obtain case studies that shed light on the challenges faced by NGOs.

Note

See page 25 for the recommendations

‘It was important to push forward to say that the system was broken, and that a few minor tweaks would not solve it. It had to be recognised as a bigger issue.’

Panellist





(R-L) Nanette Antequisa, Martin Barber

Panel Speakers and contributors:

Martin Barber – Independent (Chair), **Stuart Linder** – Development Officer at R2P Ukraine, **Bishakabalya Kokere Paulin** from CODEVAH, **Halima Adan** from SSWC, **Nanette Antequisa** from ECOWEB, **Kathlyn Sumaylo** – Author Case of Studies Publication, **David Nash** from the Zurich Foundation, **Fozia Kashif** – from the Participatory Village Development Programme, **Benedict Balderrama** from Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies, **May Jarrar** from YMCA East Jerusalem – Training Centre, **Virginie Lefevre** from Amel Association, **Ahmed Idris** from Kenya Red Cross Society, **Rory Downham** from Bioforce and Hpass, **Veronique Barbelet** from ODI.

2. Localisation Agenda: Sustainable Investment and Core Capacity

The roundtable on localisation agenda was led by The Humanitarian Leadership Academy and the NEAR Network and supported by Christian Aid, CAFOD, the British Red Cross and Shifting The Power initiative.

Many national and local NGOs receive funding for humanitarian response projects. These same organisations often struggle to receive funding for longer-term institutional strengthening and core

capacity in peacetime, during disasters and in protracted crises. Sustained funding of national and local NGOs would equip the organisations to be better positioned to deliver responses when crises strike and be considered as primary grant holders in the future. This is a gap in the international funding architecture. Furthermore, current barriers to the localisation of aid include legislation and regulation, perception and trust, the range of different interests and capacities of local actors, and often, a significant information gap.

The roundtable brought together a diverse group of influencers and decision makers from different pieces

of the humanitarian jigsaw to discuss these issues in the localisation agenda dialogue, in order to come up with concrete actionable proposals to stimulate more funding for national and local NGO core capacities in peacetime and those working in protracted crises.

The roundtable discussions utilised a three Ps approach, working through the Problem, Practice and Policy to ensure that recommendations and discussions were clearly structured and tangible to take away. Participants shared examples where things had worked well and other examples of where there had been issues.

‘To make lasting impact, we need to partner with local actors and build core capacity to create self-sustaining organisations who are able to push their own agendas and deliver on the ground’.

Localisation Session 2: Practice, WHAF 2017

The roundtable also addressed the importance of transparency. There is a significant need to be transparent and honest about the decision-making system and identify whether all decisions are ultimately to the benefit of the needs of the communities that are served. David Nash from the Zurich Foundation added that “there were two ways to make lasting impact, using local actors and building core capacity to create self- sustaining organisations that were able to push their own agendas and deliver on the ground”.

Several key matters were also recognised throughout the roundtable:

- The importance of including a diverse mix of voices in any discussion on these issues;
- That stakeholders must collectively maintain the momentum, continually reminding the wider humanitarian sector and beyond on why the localisation agenda is important;
- That it is crucial that the evidence of how and where localisation initiatives are successful, and where communities are able to enhance their resilience to shocks are collected and shared;
- That all stakeholders hold each other to account for the achievements they have committed to.



Note

See page 26 for the recommendations



Naser Haghamed
CEO of Islamic Relief Worldwide

Panel Speakers:

Imran Madden – UK Director, Islamic Relief (Chair), **Dr Tendayi Bloom** from Open University, **Hanan Ashe** from Goodwill Caravan, **Khaled Khalifa** – Regional Representative from UNHCR, **Thea Hilhorst** – Professor of Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction at the Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University (Chair), **Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abbas** – President of Iraqi Red Crescent Society, **Roger Yates** – Director of Disaster Risk Management at Plan International, **Sanat Bhowmik** from COAST Bangladesh, **Raheel Nazir Chaudhary** – Country Director at CARE International Somalia, **Zarina Khan** – Director of Gender Action for Peace and Security (Chair), **Steve Crump** – Founder of DeafKidz International, **Diana Hiscock** – Global Disability Advisor at HelpAge International, **Shirin Alsheikh Ahmed** – Protection and Inclusion Advisor at Islamic Relief Worldwide

3. Conflicts and Crisis: Forced Migration, Protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV)

The roundtable on Conflicts and Crisis was led by Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), and supported by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC).

According to the latest statistic from United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR), 65.6 million people around the globe have been forced out of their homes. Amongst these, approximately 22.5 million are refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18 (UNHCR: 2017). A prevailing but negative view is that refugees are a burden on the development aspirations of host countries and populations, and that negative socio-economic and environmental impacts and costs outweigh the positive contributions they make. The losses incurred by the displaced populations themselves reinforce perceptions of vulnerability and dependency and thus assumptions of the burden they might impose.

IRW aimed to promote gender justice and child protection in order to inspire behavioural change in communities. This roundtable discussion aimed to put beneficiaries first by building trust between different communities, organizations, and individuals and allowed delegates to explore how we as humanitarians could maximize the effectiveness of humanitarian action.

‘In the short time of the WHAF meeting, 43,000 people would be forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of conflict, violence and human rights violations’ – Conflicts and Crises Session.’

WHAF 2017

There was a rich and diverse contribution from the panellists and chairs with representation from specialist NGOs in different areas including age and disability; international NGOs; local NGOs and those working in aid delivery in Bangladesh, Somalia, Iraq and dealing with the refugee crisis in Greece. The discussions stressed that localisation included the involvement of the governments, which in many cases, do not take a neutral stance. “Governments should be working towards a system that is delivered on people’s rights regardless of who they were; [but] it was difficult to be completely impartial, independent or neutral to conflicts directly relating to your community”, Panellist.

When talking about GBV, a participant highlighted research that had been conducted in the DRC into the role of faith leaders in countering incidences of GBV. The research found that the attitudes of faith leaders were mixed, verging towards conservative, but, once agencies had managed to work with the faith leaders they had become influential agents for change.

Two issues that stood out amongst the panel were the importance of accountability and listening, and the



importance of networks on agreeing certain standards and working together for the protection of vulnerable people. In particular, accountability to donors and particularly to beneficiaries was a key issue.

Note

See page 28 for the recommendations

‘Governments should be working towards a system that is delivered on people’s rights regardless of who they were; [but] it was difficult to be completely impartial, independent or neutral to conflicts directly relating to your community.’

Panellist





Sherine El-Taraboulsi
Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Closing session

Feedback from the Roundtables: Summary Recommendations

The closing session provided an opportunity for each of the roundtable leads to share with the rest of the delegates the key findings and recommendations they had produced over the course of the day.

A) De-risking and Financial Access: Shared Risk; Shared Responsibility

The summary of recommendations discussed from the day were:

1. Three points were discussed to address de-risking: a) building banking capacity within organisations; b) considering transaction delays when designing programmes, and c) organisations should document delayed transactions to keep a record.
2. Return to multilateralism, with the World Bank playing a role acting as guarantor for small to medium humanitarian organisations, adopting the risk they were not able to take.
3. Central banks to be brought back into the conversation about banking. The move of the central bank in Yemen had disempowered banking all over Yemen; there was no representation of banks in Yemen and nobody to represent the Yemeni cause in the international banking sector.
4. One way forward was to think about dialogue; bring the bankers, the regulators and non-profit organisations together to discuss where the problem really lay, and create a common understanding of the problem, as well as address solutions. There was a failure for some organisations to keep transparent records and make them available to banks; there was a failure on the part of international and correspondent banks to understand the needs of local humanitarian organisations.

B) Localisation Agenda: Sustainable Investment and Core Capacity

The summary of recommendations discussed from the day were:

1. During the Problem and Practice sessions, numerous issues were discussed, some of which included a) the importance of domestic funding streams; b) the need to invest in coalitions, consortia and thorough networks to improve coordination and sustained capacity; and c) an encouragement for actors to work together to adopt common frameworks for assessing competencies and for staff salaries.
2. During the Policy session, the participants reviewed some of the most relevant recommendations that came out of the Wilton Park conference on localisation held in June 2017.
3. New and Adapted Funding Mechanisms: Develop proposals for new and adapted funding mechanisms, to operate at national, regional or global levels, to support local organisations. These facilities should focus on enabling local organizations to promote community resilience by developing sustainably, by strengthening their administrative systems, investing in sustainable core capacity between project cycles and improving governance and performance.
4. Support for overheads and core costs: Urge donors to adopt, as standard policy, provisions to ensure that local organisations implementing projects are financed by contributions from donors, UN agencies, where INGOs receive adequate overhead payments. Partnerships with these local organisations should include commitments to contribute towards their core costs, to ensure the quality of performance and the sustainability of the organizations.
5. Partnerships: Urge international NGOs to develop partnerships that support local and national organisations rather than seeking to 'nationalise' their own local offices in crisis-affected countries.
6. Harmonisation: Work together to develop and implement harmonised reporting systems, standardised registration and quality assurance mechanisms and transparent ways of measuring the progress of individual local organisations towards agreed benchmarks.
7. All stakeholders are encouraged to play an active role in disseminating, considering and where relevant implementing these recommendations. All these matters deserve further discussion, particularly in specific contexts to determine the relevance and potential impact.



Halima Adan
On Behalf of The NEAR Network

C) Conflicts and Crises: Forced Migration, Protection, Gender Based Violence (GBV)

The summary of recommendations discussed from the day were:

1. The first session focused on the general humanitarian landscape, focusing mainly on statelessness, the injustices, and lack of passports. The Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular, has to be challenged to address statelessness on board. This is due to the approach of the SDGs being country-by-country, which did not address cross-cutting issues such as statelessness. Overall, statelessness needs to be brought into mainstream thinking including giving stateless people a voice in those international conversations.
2. There needs to be advocacy and public pressure to hold governments to account, and possibly legal action in some cases, because there was a feeling that it was not the frameworks that were the problem, but their implementation by sovereign states. The term “burden sharing” was mentioned; five donors were responsible for two thirds of global humanitarian response last year, and

that needed to be shared out more equally.

3. On the topic of local protection, there is a need to invest in over-arching systems and standards that could be adapted to local situations. Secondly, the issue of accountability must be seriously addressed in programming and policy and strategy approaches to protection. International NGOs need to ensure they are accountable to local NGOs, while all NGOs must be accountable to and empower the local community. Thirdly, humanitarian actors should identify and support particular vulnerable groups among the generally vulnerable population, for example, people with disabilities and adolescent girls and boys.
4. On the topic of intersectionality; the Leave No One Behind Agenda was addressed, ensuring that the response to humanitarian challenges did not leave anyone behind. The recommendations fell into three categories:
 - a) Data: At a bare minimum, data should be collected on sex, age and disability, so that it can be disaggregated to identify the needs of particular vulnerable groups.
 - b) Organisations need to systematically embrace this Agenda included recruiting specialist staff who can relate to and support



these particular populations. Strategies, policies and tool kits such as awareness training should be employed for staff to attend who can take forward the messages of particular groups, such as the disability agenda.

c) Advocacy is needed with a range of different stakeholders including donors, and international stakeholders.

The relevant recommendations that arose from WHAF will be fed into the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework 2018.

‘There needs to be advocacy and public pressure to hold governments to account, and possibly legal action in some cases, because there was a feeling that it was not the frameworks that were the problem, but their implementation by sovereign states...’

Closing remarks

The closing session of WHAF reflected on how the journey from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness has taken years, the process of moving from international organisations delivering aid to one where local humanitarian organisations have the capacity to respond in a sustained way independently, will also take time. Coordination and cooperation between different actors is essential for efficient resource mobilisation and there are many models of good practice in this regard.



Dr Yaseen Ahmed Abbas
President of Iraqi Red Crescent Society

Dr Yaseen said that the day had been very useful; it had been helpful to exchange experiences with external partners. Humanitarian resources were very valuable and very limited, so everyone has to work together to ensure the resources could be mobilised efficiently.



Saba Almubaslat
CEO, Humanitarian Leadership Academy

Saba Almubaslat reminded delegates that the images of starving children in Yemen while the world continued to dump surplus food was a stark reminder that success of humanitarian organisations was about saving more lives.



Martin Barber OBE
Independent

Martin Barber, OBE, encouraged attendees not to be disheartened, but to keep pushing and interact with confidence, and that when they returned in two years' time there would be a new story to tell.



Rawaad Mahyub
Executive Director of The Humanitarian Forum

Rawaad Mahyub thanked all the lead organisations and those who supported them for putting these roundtables together. He shared with the delegates how THF along with the WHAF partners, plan to take these recommendations forward, and what the next steps will be.

Recommendations from the de-risking roundtable for example, will be compiled in a report to contribute to the UK Government's Working Group on de-risking. It will also be part of a roundtable discussion with US policy makers in Spring 2018. In terms of conflicts and crises, the recommendations will feed into the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework 2018. The localisation recommendations will be shared with donors, NGOs and local organisations and communities.



Dr Hany El-Banna
President of The Humanitarian Forum

Dr. Hany El-Banna thanked all the partners and attendees. He shared his belief that “those present at the Forum were able to deliver, because they had the heart and the guts to do it; they had the vision, intention and sincerity in their heart to stand up together.

The challenge for everyone is to carry on and to find an agenda to complement the role of the UN and the role of others. Understanding that there is no one organisation bigger than the other and that we are all working for the same cause”.



WHAF 2017: What has happened since?

Several engaging activities and discussions have already taken place and many more are planned over the course of the next six months. Below is a summary of some of these activities and outputs of WHAF 2017, (at time of print May 2018).

Roundtable Session	Key Outputs
De-risking and Financial Access: Share the research findings and inform policy	The de-risking paper on the Yemen case study was launched at the Overseas Development Institute on 8th February 2018, engaging key stakeholders. The remaining four country case studies will be launched by the end of June 2018.
	We shared the findings of the de-risking research report at the International Stakeholder Dialogue at The Hague on 15th February 2018, involving the World Bank, ACAMS, government policy makers and regulators, hosted by the Dutch Ministry of Finance and Human Security Collective.
	A series of key stakeholder meetings were held from 7th -9th of May 2018 in Washington DC with US policy makers including the US State Department, US Treasury, Congressmen, Think Tanks and NPOs.
	Findings of the de-risking research report from several country case studies will be shared at the International Humanitarian Studies Association Conference at The Hague in August 2018.
	A series of De-risking consultation meetings are being conducted with NGOs, regulators, banks and donors to discuss policy recommendations which will inform a policy brief to be published by the end of July 2018.
	Delivered a Financial Governance training course for local NGOs in Gaziantep, Turkey, to raise awareness of bank de-risking and preventative measures to contribute to both financial integrity and financial access.

Roundtable Session	Key Outputs
Localisation Agenda: Shared Recommendations	The summary recommendations of the Localisation roundtable have been shared with the Charter4Change group and other channels.
	The recommendations have been shared with relevant donors including DfID, ECHO and the Swiss Government.
	The recommendations have also been shared with participants at the UNOCHA Global Policy Forum and with the Grand Bargain localization work stream members. We hope that all those who have received the recommendations will bear them in mind when looking at their 2018 work plan and future initiatives.
	In line with the capacity strengthening agenda, a series of training courses were delivered to over 200 local NGO staff in Turkey and Iraq throughout April of 2018. Topics included; Financial Governance and Accountability, Sustainable and Integrated Development, The Role of Women and Youth in Civil Society, Partnerships and Collaboration.
Conflicts and Crises: To continue the advocacy work	We will continue to champion the recommendations in order to maintain the momentum on these key priorities around locally led humanitarian action.
	The outputs from the roundtable will be used to engage in advocacy work with UNHCR in order to influence the Global Compact on Forced Migration, and feed into the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
	IRW in collaboration with the Joint Learning Initiative network are conducting research on protection in refugee settings.
	IRW launched its policies on GBV at the UN Commission on the Status of Women session 62 held in New York in March 2018. The Gender Justice Declaration will also be launched at 2 high level meetings and at CSO level. IRW also engaged in a workshop on Sexual Violence in Conflict in Iraq in early January.
	A number of field visits were conducted by THF to Iraq, Somalia and Bangladesh.
	THF and IRW are supporting a conference in Iraq in October 2018 on 'Communities in Action'.



De-risking Dialogue in Washington DC, Dr Stuart Gordon (LSE), May 2018



Training local NGOs on role of Women and Youth in Civil Society, Gaziantep, Turkey, April 2018



Visiting Somaliland, May 2018



Meeting with Representative of Congressman Al Green, May 2018



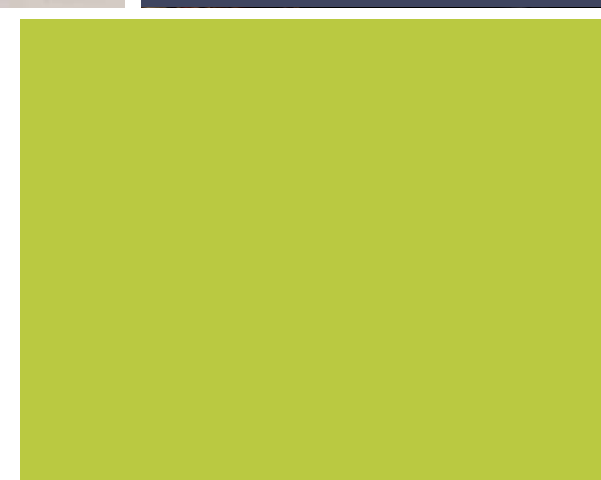
De-risking training for local NGOs, Gaziantep, Turkey, April 2018



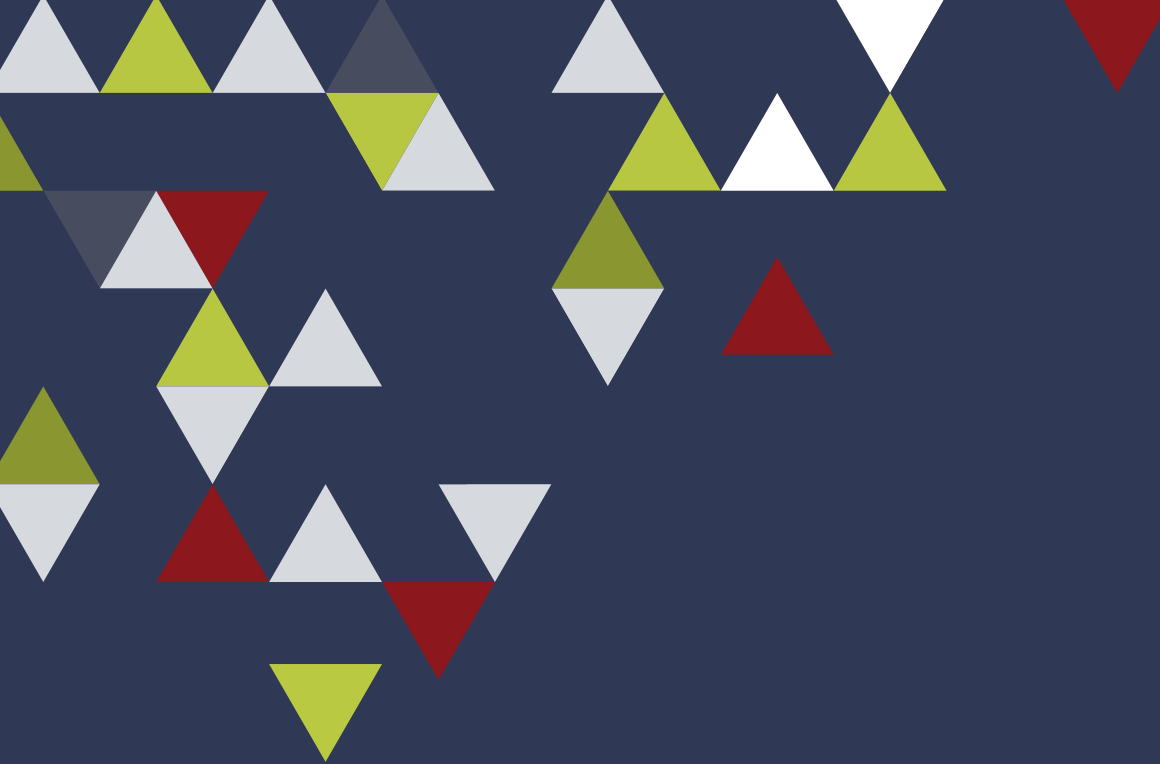
Training local NGOs in Conflict zones (Iraq)



The role of Women and Youth training course, Gaziantep, Turkey, April 2018



Meeting at US State Department, May 2018



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