



**Our Collective Contribution to building peaceful and inclusive societies and sustainable development in the 2030 Era¹:
Discussing how humanitarian and development actors can work together using the New Deal to achieve the SDGs in contexts of fragility and protracted crisis.**

A concept note

World Humanitarian Summit

24 May 2016, 9:00-10:30am, in the Galata Theatre, Lüfti Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Centre (LKCC) building

Background

There is increasing recognition that greater coherence between humanitarian and development approaches is required to respond to the scale of the crises facing our world today and to address their underlying causes. This is clearly reflected in the UNSG's report "One Humanity: Shared Responsibility" which identifies "political leadership to prevent and end conflict" as Core Responsibility Number One for the international community. The increasing number of 'protracted humanitarian crises', coupled with a systemic funding crisis, present an enormous challenge for the international community, but also a great opportunity, for strengthening the collective contributions of the development and humanitarian actors for more effective interventions in contexts of crisis and fragility, in ways that will ultimately lead to *shrinking needs*.

Today over 60 million people in the world have been displaced by violent conflict. This is the highest since the Second World War. The humanitarian system was designed to save lives and alleviate human suffering in immediate, short-term, emergencies. However, what was once short term is often now long term. The average humanitarian appeal lasts for 7 years, and the average time people spend in situations of displacement is 17 years. More and more humanitarian resources are used in protracted or recurrent crises. Today, approximately 90 percent of humanitarian funding from OECD donors goes to address medium-to-long term crises. Meanwhile, the global humanitarian UN appeal has reached record levels, and the increasingly scarce resources of the humanitarian community are badly needed in new or escalating emergencies.

The 2030 agenda provides a unique opportunity for defining common objectives around SDG delivery at the country level. This is particularly relevant after the 2030 Agenda was unanimously adopted in New York in September 2015 replacing the MDGs with the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda – being more ambitious and comprehensive than the MDGs - requires an even more collaborative approaches at all levels, especially between development and humanitarian actors in countries affected by crisis and fragility. The SDGs were created as one framework for humanitarian, development and peace actors and the ideal framework for implementation of SDGs in fragile settings is the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile and Conflict Affected States.

¹ This panel is linked to the Roundtable on Conflict Prevention and its statements / possible commitments: <https://www.worldhumanitarianissummit.org/bitcache/fb78631894362be5db7f1095e13ee7441bb927ae?vid=571405&disposition=inlin e&op=view>

As we enter the 2030 Agenda era, we can also not ignore the fact that almost two-thirds of the countries affected by crisis and fragility, failed to meet the goal of halving poverty by the end date of the MDGs. Against this backdrop, it is clear that the universal, indivisible and interdependent ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved if there is greater coherence across the numerous global policy agenda currently vying for space. Only with greater coherence can these agenda become mutually reinforcing, and together contribute to the effective delivery of the SDGs all over the world, particularly in contexts of fragility and protracted crisis.

If humanitarian and long term development efforts can mutually reinforce each other, this will enable stronger partnerships to be forged, in ways that both improve responsiveness to immediate relief needs in humanitarian crises but also contribute to the longer term goals of strengthening institutions, addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting inclusive governance in ways that prevent a return into crisis and/or conflict.

This event will take stock of existing experiences of productive collaboration between the humanitarian and development communities, drawing in particular on the experiences of countries that have experimented with the New Deal Framework for Engagement in Fragile States, crafted by the International Dialogue in 2011, as a means of improving ways of doing business amongst all actors engaged in fragile and conflict affected settings. It will also explore emerging joint approaches to implementing and monitoring the SDGs in fragile settings, such as the UN initiative MAPS (Monitoring, Acceleration and Policy Support), and what other opportunities exist for humanitarian and development actors to work more coherently.

Bridging the gap between humanitarian and development interventions is one of the fundamental challenges facing the international development community but there is little consensus on how this would work in practice. What could help is a less linear approach to transition. Instead of presuming that sustainable peace necessarily comes after conflict or that development support should automatically come after relief, there should be a recognition that these processes are not sequential but can exist alongside each other. This could set the backdrop against which humanitarian and development actors work in more complementary ways. A more strategic focus and acknowledgement of the relevance of political questions and processes, greater flexibility and adaptability to changing contexts and longer-term perspectives, could also help. This is particularly the case in contexts of chronic vulnerability, recurrent risks and protracted crises. A more coordinated approach, which recognises specificities and mandates among humanitarian, development actors is needed, could be built around forging common objectives in these contexts.

A possible rallying point could be The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile and Conflict Affected States, which, recognises that inclusive governance is critical to forging effective transitions out of conflict and building sustainable peace, in ways that put national governments in the driver's seat. The New Deal principles could be relevant as a means of promoting development-sensitive humanitarian approaches which can contribute to greater sustainability by helping to rebuild institutions, particularly at sub national and community levels. As we have seen in the countries affected by Ebola, crises can often reverse the development gains of a country overnight, if the underlying drivers of fragility and the weakness of institutions are not recognised or addressed. Countries like the Central African Republic that have suffered from protracted crisis are increasingly interested in longer term development support instead of support limited to humanitarian interventions, that often bypass state structures and systems.

Greater complementarity between the humanitarian and development communities could come from the more systematic use of the greater political leverage often enjoyed by development actors, which could be mobilised to create more enabling environments for humanitarian actors to operate in, and foster political dialogue, in ways likely to reduce the longevity of 'protracted crisis'. Similarly greater development-sensitivity by humanitarian actors, could pave the way for more sustainable results in line with aspirations of the 2030 Agenda, the New Deal and International Dialogue.

Objectives

This panel will discuss what ‘bridging the humanitarian and development divide’ could look like in practice² and especially how actors from both communities could collectively define shared objectives and so both contribute to more effective interventions in contexts of fragility and protracted crisis towards the achievement of the SDGs, notably:

1. Concrete ways in which Development and Humanitarian actors can forge more effective partnerships in the specific context of fragility and protracted crisis notably through joint analysis and the joint definition of desirable results;
2. Lessons learnt from particular experiences of the humanitarian development interface in fragile settings (eg. from cash transfers, such as by UNDP during Ebola crisis, to social safety nets and the overall use of New Deal principle in the Ebola crisis);
3. How to adapt and adopt the New Deal principles in humanitarian settings, including protracted crises;
4. How to work more effectively with national governments at national and local levels, to build their resilience capacities in ways that foster inclusive state-society relations and rebuilds the social contract for sustainable peace. How to operationalise the concept of working at different “layers” of society in more complementary ways, to achieve the SDGs.
5. Share innovations on how to address the on-going systemic humanitarian financing crisis and aid orphan crisis facing many fragile and conflict affected countries (eg. CAR Bekou Trust Fund as case study).

Key messages

1. There is a need for a new integrated approach, respecting the mandates of humanitarian and development actors to build on their respective comparative advantages for a common objective, achieving the SDGs.
2. There is no longer a continuum from relief to development, but they often overlap, as seen in protracted crises, during the Ebola crisis and now the Zika epidemic.
3. Development-sensitive and conflict-sensitive humanitarian approaches and humanitarian-enabling development approaches could help minimise the phenomenon of prolonged “temporary” interventions, enable affected populations to benefit from sustainable solutions, and ensure that humanitarian principles are safeguarded.
4. Humanitarian approaches should always take into consideration the 2030 Agenda and ensure that they are linked to sustainable, longer term solutions enabling SDGs implementation.
5. *The New Deal* principles could be shared across policy communities as a basis for joint analysis and joint programming around the common objective of a contribution to peacebuilding and state building.
6. Development-sensitive humanitarian approaches should contain clearly defined strategies for reinforcing systems that can sustain interventions after crisis, and enable the gradual implementation of phase-out plans with responsibilities being transferred to development and national actors.

²This panel builds on commitments in The ‘Stockholm Declaration’ (April 2016) to greater coherence and partnership between humanitarian and development actors. This means using common analysis and planning mechanisms, along with platforms for on-going dialogue, a diversity of resources that are flexible, sufficient and delivered through appropriate channels and focusing on securing longer-term outcomes to build peace and strengthen resilience to multiple shocks and stresses. At the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, IDPS members endeavour to ensure that these words are translated into concrete actions.

Suggested panellists

This panel will bring together panellists from the humanitarian community (UNOCHA and NGOs such as IRC) with International Dialogue development partners charged with the responsibility for humanitarian and development policy development in fragile situations (UNDP, World Bank, bilateral donors e.g. Germany), and g7+ country governments (eg. Sierra Leone, CAR, Somalia, Afghanistan) to share their experiences and to discuss concrete ways in which development and humanitarian actors can forge more effective partnerships and coherent ways of working at national and local levels, to strengthen their ability to effectively deliver on their respective mandates and the SDG ambition to promote sustainable development.