



# WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT



## AT A GLANCE

The world is changing – so must humanitarian action. We must find better ways to meet the needs of millions of people affected by conflicts or disasters now and in the years to come. This is why the UN Secretary-General will convene the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in 2016.

### Humanitarianism in a rapidly changing world

This initiative comes at a critical time. The world is facing humanitarian needs on a massive scale. Global trends such as climate change, urbanization and population growth are creating new challenges for the future.

The humanitarian landscape is also changing. The number of actors involved in humanitarianism has increased, and new kinds of actors have emerged. Technologies have brought new partnerships to the humanitarian sphere and have enabled people affected by crises to express their views and needs more immediately and with greater impact. At the same time, humanitarian action is riskier than ever, with record numbers of humanitarian workers being the victims of violence in 2013.

## An inclusive future agenda

Humanitarian actors have continuously sought to improve their ability to serve the needs of people affected by conflicts and disasters. It is now time for a collective effort to look for solutions to our most pressing present and future challenges and make humanitarian action fit for the future.

This initiative must represent the widest range of perspectives and experiences. The World Humanitarian Summit will bring together all stakeholders in humanitarian action, including governments, humanitarian organizations such as UN Agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross / Red Crescent movement, people affected by conflicts or disasters, civil society organizations, militaries, diaspora networks, faith-based groups, and other partners such as the private sector. Most importantly, it will go beyond functional and technical discussions on the humanitarian sector, and put the needs of people affected by conflicts and disasters at the heart of the agenda.

## The road to the summit

During 2014 and 2015, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will facilitate eight regional consultations to gather the perspectives of humanitarian stakeholders from around the world. Consultations will also be held online, enabling a truly global discussion to take place.

The preparations for the summit will focus on four key themes: humanitarian effectiveness; reducing risk and managing vulnerability; transformation through innovation; and serving the needs of people in conflict. Alongside the consultations, teams of thematic experts will work to take stock of what has already been done, identify over-arching issues and ensure that the outcomes of the consultations translate into a set of clear recommendations. Linkages will also be made with concurrent global development, climate change and disaster risk reduction processes.

Towards the end of 2015, a global consultation meeting will be held to bring the results of the thematic work, the online consultations and the regional consultations together into a set of concrete recommendations. These will be encompassed in a final report of the UN Secretary-General that will set the agenda for the summit.

## A platform for action

In May 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit will bring the global community together to commit to a new agenda for humanitarian action beyond 2016.

This is a once in a generation opportunity. It is a call for bold thinking, not on how to adjust the present system, but on what is needed to respond to the humanitarian challenges of the future. The summit is just the beginning – all humanitarian actors will have a role to play in proposing solutions, taking forward recommendations, and ensuring that Istanbul is a platform to enact far-reaching change.

OCHA welcomes all partners to take part in the consultations leading up to the summit, and to help set an agenda to make humanitarian action fit for the future.

## 4 themes

