



WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

REGIONAL CONSULTATION • Middle East and North Africa, March 2015

Development Actor Consultation - CONCEPT NOTE

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, convened the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey in 2016. The aim of the Summit is to develop a future agenda that ensures different stakeholders in humanitarian action can keep pace with the rapidly changing context and nature of emergencies, meet the growing humanitarian needs of millions of people and be better equipped to address future challenges. The four main constituencies of the Summit are national governments, humanitarian organizations, community responders and associated partners (e.g.: private sector, military and academia/think tanks).

In preparation of the WHS, extensive consultations will take place on the four themes guiding the Summit: 1) humanitarian effectiveness, 2) reducing vulnerability and managing risk, 3) transformation through innovation and 4) serving the needs of people in conflict. This will include a series of Regional Consultations, which for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will take place in Amman, Jordan on 3-5 March 2015.

Consultation with Development Actors

Regional Consultations held to date have all highlighted the need to better link humanitarian and development action particularly in protracted crises. This message has also been echoed in consultations held in the MENA region; despite consensus and policy developments on this issue, there are concerns that persistent institutional divides inhibit progress in helping people and institutions better manage risks and reduce vulnerability.

With this in mind, the WHS Secretariat and the OCHA Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) would like to encourage development actors, possibly through the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), to organize a consultation to further explore the relationship between humanitarian and development actors based on experiences and realities of the MENA region. The outcomes of the consultation will inform a final stakeholder analysis report that will guide the agenda and focus of the WHS MENA Regional Consultation in Amman.

While consultations with other constituencies will address the four guiding themes, this consultation should be tailored to explore in depth the role of development actors in humanitarian crises in the MENA region. The aim is to gather the perspectives of development actors on key issues such as challenges that prevent humanitarian and development actors to adopt a common and collaborative approach to reducing vulnerability; the role of development actors in helping governments and communities prepare and anticipate humanitarian crises; and the role of development finance in building resilience to better absorb shocks and manage risks.

OCHA ROMENA will raise the possibility of organizing the consultation during the 20th Meeting of the RCM in Beirut on 11 December 2014.