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## Reporting on WHS commitments

The Humanitarian Forum is a global network of key organisations from Muslim donor and recipient countries and their counterparts in Western regions. We aim to put beneficiaries first by building trust between different communities, organizations, and individuals to maximize the effectiveness of humanitarian action. We work with humanitarian and development organizations of all sizes internationally and in our partner countries. Through training, good governance, cooperation and maintaining humanitarian standards, we hope to create stronger, more efficient networks that can make the most of the resources, learning from each other and foster innovation.

Since 2008, we have been working with our partners in many projects that aim to provide support and aid and advocate for the rights and the voices of refugees and displaced people. Our work covered projects in Somalia, Sudan (and then South Sudan), Yemen and Syria.

As part of our preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit, we have organised more than 37 national consultations in about 39 countries in 2014. One of the main themes discussed in these meetings were the issues facing vulnerable people and mass migration which came as a result of prolonged conflicts, especially in the Middle East. The consultations in Europe, USA and Canada focused on the role of the diaspora in humanitarian work.

During the Summit, we organised two side events. One of them was on ‘Assessing the consequences of de-risking policies and restrictions on transferring funds to humanitarian organisations as a result of counter-terrorism legislation affecting the banking system’. Banking practices can have a drastic impact on refugees, displaced people and immigrants. We are at the moment conducting research on this topic, and its findings will be presented in a humanitarian conference we are planning in November 2017.

On 11 April 2017, we organised a humanitarian coordination meeting in Mogadishu, in partnership with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Somali Federal Government and UN OCHA. The main aim of the meeting was to prevent the famine from happening again and to mitigate the effects of the drought. There is a huge number of displaced Somalis, who escaped to the big cities leaving the hard-hit urban areas. The final statement of the meeting called for urgent assistance to displaced populations to save lives, protect livelihoods and reduce further displacement.

From 2016, we have started organising a series of training workshops to build the capacity of Syrian civil society organisations in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon. So far, we have conducted 8 workshops, and 4 more workshops are planned up to December 2017. A training workshop for Iraqi organisations will be held in Erbil from 15-16th April 2017.

The pages below highlights some of our recent activities based on our WHS commitments.

## 1) Political leadership to prevent and end conflicts: An end to human suffering requires political solutions, unity of purpose and sustained leadership and investment in peaceful and inclusive societies.

## Commitment 1:

## *Commitment type: Advocacy*

**Bringing the attention to policy makers:**

On the 24th November 2016, the president of The Humanitarian Forum Dr Hany met with British Politicians: The Right Honourable Ms Clare Short and the MP Mr Andrew Mitchell. This meeting, in addition to several other communications resulted in a working visit to Syrian refugees camps in Turkey and Lebanon. The trip had great coverage in the British media and was mentioned in a discussion in Parliament.

## Commitment 2:

## *Commitment type: Advocacy*

## In partnership with the Muslim Charities Forum, a high profile delegation visit was organised to Somaliland, 8-10th April 2016, to bring the world’s attention to the drought crisis in Somalia. It included a delegation of five charities with MP Diane Abbot. The delegation visited Somaliland to witness first-hand the ongoing drought in the region and to highlight to press and policymakers the urgency of the situation. The briefing was attended by journalists from print and broadcast media including BBC Somali and has resulted in widespread coverage of the visit. The delegation was received by Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud, President of Somaliland, and the mainstream national media.

**Commitment 3:**

## The Humanitarian Forum’s efforts continues to prevent the drastic famine of 2011 to be repeated in Somalia. On 11 April, we organised a humanitarian coordination meeting in Mogadishu, in partnership with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Somali Federal Government and UNOCHA. The main aim of the meeting was to prevent the famine from happening again and to mitigate the effects of the drought. There is a huge number of displaced Somalis, who escaped to the big cities leaving the hard-hit urban areas. The final statement of the meeting called for urgent assistance to displaced populations to save lives, protect livelihoods and reduce further displacement.

## 2) Invest in humanity

**Accepting and acting upon our shared responsibilities for humanity requires political, institutional and financing investment.**

**Commitment 1:**

*Commitment type: partnership*

To keep the momentum flowing for reinforced partnership and coordination among humanitarian actors in the South and North post WHS 2016 and in order to ensure enhanced coherence in humanitarian response, The Humanitarian Forum will organise an annual conference, under the title ‘World Humanitarian Action Week’ to facilitate communication and coordination between all stakeholders and increasing effectiveness in their policy engagement strategies. First conference to take place in London, in November 2017.

**Commitment 2:**

*Commitment type: operational*

Following on from a side event run by The Humanitarian Forum at the World Humanitarian Summit (event title: **De-Rıskıng & Remıttances: Cooperatıon Between Fınancıal Instıtutıons and The Humanıtarıan Sector**) participants recommended to address issues of de-risking strategies of financial institutions by carrying out case studıes that document the catastrophic consequences of the strıngent legıslatıon on transferrıng funds, particularly to those located in hıgh rısk areas.

**Aim of global Research Project**: To produce evidence-based case studies explaining how de-risking strategies of financial institutions have affected the work of humanitarian organisations. This project looks to address issues of de-risking strategies of financial institutions by carrying out case studıes that document the catastrophic consequences of the strıngent legıslatıon on transferrıng funds, particularly to those located in hıgh rısk areas.

**Commitment 3:**

*Commitment type: policy*

The Humanitarian Forum joined a dialogue/focus group in Brussels from 1-2 December 2016, on exploring obstacles that stand in the way of deepening collaboration between the conventional development and aid sector and its corresponding institutions active in the Muslim world. This is the third of four meetings and builds upon three years of successful research and programming. The project is funded and organised by The British Council, The Council on Foreign Relations, The Carter Center, and The Institute for Strategic Dialogue. The Brussels meeting was funded directly by the EU Commission. This meeting is the third of four such meetings we have conducted under the auspices of the Civic Approaches to Conflict Prevention research initiative (funded by the EU Commission).

The discussions from the Brussels meeting--which was structured both as a focus group and cross-sector dialogue--will be added to the data being collected for a report to be delivered to the EU Commission’s office of Service for Policy Instruments in July/August 2017.

## 4) Changing People's lives: from delivering aids to ending need. Ending need requires the reinforcement of local systems and the anticipation and transcendence of the humanitarian-development divide.

**Commitment 1:**

*Commitment type: Training*

The relief work in Syria has been greatly affected due to the struggles and harassment that the rescue teams and the local and international relief teams face. The need to train relief cadres working in the civil society institutions is becoming urgent, so that they can perform their jobs to the best of their abilities. Thus, this initiative is complementary to the efforts exerted by the Syrian civil society institutions to relieve the Syrian People. This program aims to make several workshops and intensive courses that aim to reinforce the building of civil society institutions, developing its cadres’ skills as well as the potentials of young people and volunteers. This is done together with civil society institutions, where what is focused on is enabling the cadres to develop their ideas and stimulating their creative thinking in making strategic plans to implement projects depending on the vital basic needs of the people, and serving the society. The suggested program depends on the cooperation of the giving international institutions in organizing these training programs with each one of the Humanitarian Forum, the networks, and the Syrian Unions depending on qualifying and training the emerging Syrian civil society institutions.

Project Title: Capacity Building of Syrian NGOs Project Duration: 12 months Start Date: March 2017 End Date: April 2018 Project Aim: To develop the capacity of local and national Syrian NGOs engaged in early recovery/ livelihood programmes such that they can deliver improved interventions to their beneficiaries. Main Objective: Deliver 8 training courses to 100 Syrian NGOs working in Syria and neighbouring countries, over a 12- month period. Main Outcome A strengthened and capable local NGO will be more efficient and responsive to its beneficiaries and more accountable to its international stakeholders. Project Beneficiaries: Syrian NGO staff (mainly middle-senior management), Number of Direct Beneficiaries: 300 Indirect Beneficiaries: Syrian IDPs, refugees, and INGO/donor community Location of Beneficiaries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and indirectly Syria (Aleppo - Damascus - Homs -Idlib - Hasaka - Hama- Latakia) Area of Project Implementation: Turkey (Istanbul, Gaziantep, Antakya/Reyhanli), Lebanon (Beirut), Jordan (Amman), Iraq (Irbil).