



welt  
hunger  
hilfe

For a world without hunger



# THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

## Sharing Responsibilities and Generating Change for Humanity

### Challenging Times

The world is currently facing humanitarian needs on a scale that has not been witnessed since the Second World War. Political failures, instability, armed conflicts and a lack of respect to International Humanitarian Law (IHL), climate change (more frequent and higher intensity natural disasters), global inequalities, as well as the long-term mass displacement of people, are common features of today's world, driving the escalation of people in need of humanitarian aid.

In 2015, 77.9 million people were in need of humanitarian aid and this figure is expected to rise over the next years. In 2014 alone, an average of 42,500 people were displaced each and every day and the average duration of their displacement is estimated at 17 years! Humanitarian crises have devastating consequences on the health and mental wellbeing, food security, livelihoods, physical security, personal ambitions and dignity of affected people.

At present, 80% of humanitarian needs are provoked by conflicts. Indeed, it is against this backdrop, that a collective re-think is required to better meet the needs of millions of people affected by conflicts and disasters and those at risk i.e. people with limited coping capacities living in fragile and chronically under-developed contexts or disaster prone regions.

### Why is the Summit important?

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) is the first ever global summit on humanitarian action. It represents a collective opportunity to build a more diverse humanitarian community which is able to set a new agenda for humanitarian action: to be better equipped, to be prepared for, and respond to humanitarian needs while minimising humanitarian hardships. The WHS will be held in Istanbul from 23-24 May, 2016.

The process leading up to the Summit has encompassed extensive consultations over the last three years, culminating in the UN Secretary General's [Agenda for Humanity](#) which calls for commitments to **five Core Responsibilities** considered to be absolutely critical for transforming the lives of people affected by humanitarian crises and ending humanitarian needs:

- CR1. Political leadership to prevent and end conflicts
- CR2. Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity
- CR3. Leave no one behind
- CR4. Change People's lives - from delivering aid to ending need
- CR5. Invest in humanity

The operational activities of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) such as Welthun-

gerhilfe (WHH) together with their local partners, currently make up a large proportion of humanitarian response. This places INGOs in a unique position for further supporting the development of local capacities. However, the current supply of humanitarian financing is not at all sufficient for meeting the rising scale of humanitarian needs.

## „We have to achieve this together and we're in it for the long-run“

Till Wahnbaeck, CEO, Welthungerhilfe

It is for this reason, that the Summit represents a key opportunity for galvanising broader support to meet the Agenda for Humanity: at the Summit, Heads of State and Government, humanitarian organisations, community leaders, affected people, youth and businesses will announce major commitments for achieving the Agenda for Humanity.

These commitments are expected to deliver political progress and collective outcomes that draw on comparative advantages of different stakeholders, generate investments in local capacities, in risk reduction and in stability, and to enable the international community to act early to support vulnerable people and those in need, in a principled and accountable manner which is: **as local as possible and as international as necessary**



Residents of the Malakal Protection of Civilians site in South Sudan organise a protest, demanding accountability for the international community's shortcomings in safeguarding their lives © OCHA / Charlotte Cans 2016

## WHH's Engagement in the Summit

WHH is actively participating in the Summit because we believe that it is necessary to work collectively and with a shared responsibility to overcome the multiplicity of challenges humanity faces. Humanitarian disasters, both natural or manmade, risk destabilising families, communities, countries and whole regions. We live in an inter-dependent and interconnected world, and no single individual, organisation or nation can manage the scale of humanitarian needs worldwide, alone.

As an organisation guided by the principle of „help towards self-help“, working both in emergency relief and on long-term development, we are committed to providing sustainable solutions to food and nutrition security by supporting local capacities for self-reliance. Fighting malnutrition and ending hunger in rural areas through investments in sustainable farming and agriculture is our commitment to ensuring the long-lasting stability of individuals, families and societies. Food security is a pre-requisite for all aspects of development, including the development of cities and urban areas which rely on access to food and agricultural products. However, the persistence of humanitarian needs concern us greatly as these erode away at developmental gains and place reliance on humanitarian aid.

As demonstrated in the [Global Hunger Index, 2015](#), instability and hunger go hand-in hand i.e. hunger is a consequence of poverty, instability and chronic under-development but hunger can also be a trigger for instability. Political diplomacy and solutions that are critical for ending conflicts are absolutely necessary for achieving the Sustainable Development Goal for „Zero Hunger“ by 2030.

Only by supporting and reinforcing the efforts of affected people and local actors in their self-reliance and by putting an end to conflicts can we truly become equipped to manage humanitarian crises, put an end to the unnecessary suffering of people and realise sustainable food and nutrition security.

Over the past few years, driven by our increasing engagement in humanitarian contexts, as well as our participation in various themes and discussions throughout the Summit consultation process, our concerns have focused around three major areas of enquiry:

1. **How do we need to change so that we can better contribute to meeting the long-term needs of vulnerable people and those affected by humanitarian disasters?**
2. **How can we as an INGO which works closely with local organisations provide further support to improve local resilience and support better recovery and preparedness from humanitarian crises?**
3. **What needs to change politically to better protect affected communities and enable international aid workers in unstable and armed conflict situations?**



## Sharing Responsibilities

Our concerns are well-reflected in the five Core Responsibilities identified in the Agenda for Humanity and while we consider these to be crucial for achieving real change, we also see a need to go beyond these, thus, we commit to do the following:

### Our Commitments to the Agenda for Humanity and Beyond

1. As a Founding Member of the Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance, we commit to placing affected people at the heart of humanitarian action. We will listen to their voices and choices, their specific needs, support them in their self-reliance, seek their feedback and be accountable to them
2. We support the launch of the [Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation](#), [Global Risk Platform](#) and the [Connecting Businesses Initiative](#) and commit to better harnessing competencies and knowledge from other sectors to seek new partnerships for working more efficiently and effectively together, to realise common goals
3. We will anticipate risk and take early action in humanitarian situations by increasing investments in early warning and preparedness measures to guide our operational work in order to safeguard the resilience of communities and their sustainable food and nutrition security
4. Recognising that local actors and communities themselves, are critical „first responders“ in humanitarian situations and agents for realising the principle of „help towards self-help“, we commit to making new investments in local capacities for enhanced resilience, preparedness and response
5. We commit to facilitating the integration of local humanitarian actors into the international humanitarian system

## Political Responsibilities

We are ready to commit to the Agenda for Humanity in our capacity as an INGO but our bottom line is:

we demand global political will and collective action to achieve lasting transformation for the millions of people in need and the many millions more who are vulnerable and at risk of conflicts, natural disasters, malnutrition



Responding to humanitarian needs in the Philippines, following Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 © Welthungerhilfe / Kigalifilm

and hunger. For this reason, **Welthungerhilfe calls upon national governments and the UN to:**

1. Commit to strong political leadership and international diplomacy to end conflicts and hold IHL violators accountable: this is absolutely crucial for achieving „Zero Hunger“ by 2030
2. Follow-up and respect the commitments and outcomes of the WHS by developing a global-level system to monitor progress on the Agenda for Humanity that is linked to the Agenda 2030's SDGs
3. Break the silos between humanitarian and development financing: make long-term funding more readily available to manage protracted humanitarian crises situations
4. National governments need to guarantee humanitarian access and uphold the minimum operational requirements for humanitarian assistance: movement of supplies, work permits and visas for aid workers, security of aid workers and medical facilities, and the protection of affected populations and their assets
5. Reinforce the unique role that INGOs play in working long-term with communities and local partners. Step-up investments that enable INGOs to better support local actors in their resilience-building efforts while making new financing available to local actors and CSOs
6. Build on experiences of the G7 Initiative on Climate Risk Insurance (InsuResilience): explore new financing mechanisms, invest more in risk reduction and support the development of similar national mechanisms in disaster-prone countries

### Contact

**Priya Behrens-Shah**

Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Advisor

[Priya.Behrens-Shah@Welthungerhilfe.de](mailto:Priya.Behrens-Shah@Welthungerhilfe.de)