

Program

[updated 30/09/2024]

DAY 1: Wednesday 16 October 2024

08:30 - 09:15

Foyer

REGISTRATION

09:15 - 10:30

Kleistsaal (1st Floor) & Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Welcome & Keynote Dialogue with Heba Aly & Nimo Hassan

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Heba Aly | Coordinator, UN Charter Reform Coalition

Nimo Hassan | Director, Somali NGO Consortium

Chair: **Isabelle Arradon** | Director of Research, International Crisis Group

10:30 - 11:00 | **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 - 12:30

Kleistsaal (1st Floor)

No peace, no protection: The humanitarian situation in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a country with a vibrant civil society and significant natural resources has been experiencing escalating conflict, in particular in the eastern provinces. This session will look at current and urgent humanitarian challenges but also address root causes of conflict and violence, such as the trade of minerals and violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, including SGBV. It will also look at synergies between the work of humanitarian and human rights actors and seek recommendations on how they can support each other in the face of escalating violence and significant humanitarian needs. Finally, the session will also explore ways of ensuring that the urgent humanitarian situation in the DRC is not ignored by mainstream media, donor countries and political actors.

Sandrine Lusamba | National Coordinator, SOLIDARITE FEMININE POUR LA PAIX ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT INTEGRAL "SOFEPADI"

Luise Amtsberg | Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance

Manu Lampaert | DRC country representative, Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders

Faridah Luanda | Gender and Diversity Coordinator, Global Refugee Youth Network

Chair:

Omar Ahmed Abenza | Head of Region – Africa, Geneva Call

Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Safe Abortion – A Denied Lifesaving Intervention

In humanitarian settings, access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is often limited or non-existent, while contraception and abortion care remain neglected components. However, safe abortion is essential healthcare and a lifesaving intervention. Self-managed abortion has emerged as a viable and safe approach, especially when conventional medical services are unavailable. WHO considers abortion essential health care and calls on countries to decriminalize abortion and remove the many access barriers. Refusing abortion services can cause severe mental and physical suffering and has been considered a violation of IHL to ensure human treatment. This panel highlights the importance of safe abortion as a public health component in humanitarian contexts. It explores the role of self-managed abortion and share good practices from feminist organizations. Overall, it provides insights and solutions for the integration of self-managed abortion into humanitarian health frameworks.

Najat Lahmidi | Midwife and SRHR technical advisor, Médecins du Monde

Dr. Bela Ganatra | Unit Head, Preventing unsafe abortion, The World Health Organization Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research

Dr. Lucía Berro Pizzarossa | Women Help Women

Bill Powell | Senior Medical Scientist, IPAS

Chair:

Kristin Horn

12:30 - 13:30 | **LUNCH**

13:30 – 15:00

Kleistsaal (1st Floor)

Where is Everyone? Understanding the Gaps in Sudan's Emergency Response

This panel explores the lack of humanitarian response in many global crises, despite the growing humanitarian system. In acute emergencies, international staff are often evacuated, leading to reduced or suspended programs. Many agencies focus on easily accessible populations, neglecting harder-to-reach areas. Increasingly, humanitarian actors operate remotely through local NGOs or government authorities, acting more as technical experts or donors. Local organizations, bearing significant responsibilities, often lack the resources and face high security risks.

In Sudan, over a year into the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a colossal man-made catastrophe continues. Urgent safe humanitarian access is a matter of life or death for millions. The panel will discuss the reasons behind the inadequate response and potential solutions to scale up activities across the country.

Maryam Elfaki | Sudanese democracy, social justice & peace activist

Ozan Agbas | Emergency Manager, Médecins Sans Frontières

Betty Ka | Director Supply Chain Operations Division, World Food Programme

Christina Förster | Deputy Head of Department, German Humanitarian Assistance in Countries and Regions, German Federal Foreign Office

Chair:

Kholood Khair | Political Analyst; Founding Director, Confluence Advisory

Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Invisible Frontiers: Locals Leading Humanitarian Negotiations

In recent years, the working conditions for humanitarians have become more difficult, volatile and insecure. This has increasingly created INVISIBLE FRONTIERS for humanitarian actors operating in fragile contexts. This panel looks at the changing environment for HUMANITARIAN NEGOTIATIONS, especially for local actors who are at the forefront of humanitarian responses and regularly conduct negotiations for humanitarian access. Yet, they are often the least protected and their needs are not always considered. This panel therefore explores different perspectives, experiences and learnings from locally led humanitarian negotiations. Speakers representing local organizations from Afghanistan, Nigeria and Venezuela share their strategies to secure humanitarian access. Different approaches to negotiations and how to handle practical, security and ethical dilemmas are discussed. Overall, the panel shows practical solutions for humanitarian negotiations from local actors, and how international actors can support them best in doing so.

Hamsatu Allamin | Allamin Foundation, Chair

Khalil Karimi | Razi Social Development Organization (RSDO), Head of Operations

Arquímedes Farías | Senior Analyst

Dr. Kristina Roepstorff | Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Senior Researcher

Chair:

Armando Palacios | Médecins du Monde, Network Security Advisor

15:00 - 15:30 | COFFEE BREAK

15:30 - 17:00

Kleistsaal (1st Floor)

Decisions on the edge: Handling Dilemmas concerning fundamental Humanitarian Principles

Handling dilemmas that challenge humanitarian principles can be difficult, as they often require balancing competing ethical values, addressing complex societal issues, and making decisions that affect people's lives. If we reflect the Core Humanitarian Principles that normally should guide humanitarian action, we will realize that dealing with dilemmatic situations is rarely easy and often does not offer perfect solutions, but even more requires well-founded, ethically justifiable decisions and the willingness to choose the better of two "bad solutions".

This Panel aims to answer questions like whether every humanitarian need has an equal priority for every humanitarian actor, and is intergenerational aid - is the future - part of the emergency of the present, and should it be prioritized? Another burning question would be whether it is unethical - if no alternative financial support is offered - to involve profit-oriented companies in burden-sharing? Finally, the session will discuss whether humanitarian aid that is more successful should be weighed against that which is less promising.

Prof. Marco Sassòli | Professor of International Law, University of Geneva

Dr. Andrea Steinke | Researcher and Consultant, Associate Centre for Humanitarian Action

Abby Stoddard | Researcher, Writer, Humanitarian Policy Analyst

Nimo Hassan | Director, Somali NGO Consortium

Chair:

Alexandra Rùth | Head of Knowledge & Innovation Department, German Red Cross

Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Funding gaps and changing Narratives: A Balancing Act

This session looks at the elephant in the (emergency) room: money and resources. Decreasing budgets and changing funding landscape pose significant challenges to humanitarian actors, while needs are escalating and complex crises become more protracted. This trend is often framed with narratives that link humanitarian funding to political and security interests of donor states or economical interests. Humanitarian organizations are increasingly required to “do more with less”. The panelists with their individual backgrounds will discuss their experience and concrete responses to the critical and changing funding panorama and its impacts on prioritization in humanitarian and developmental work. What are new and local solutions to funding gaps and what are the implications of new narratives on funding? Overall, the panel focuses on possible solutions and ways to move towards a more effective and equitable funding landscape, and asks what is needed from different stakeholders to achieve it.

John Bryant | Research Fellow, ODI

Margret Müller | Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Oxfam

Misun Woo | Regional Coordinator, Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Mehdi Poyan | GFFO, Desk Officer for Principles of Humanitarian Aid, International Disaster Relief and Humanitarian Demining

Chair:

William Anderson | Executive Director, Sphere Standards

Keplersaal (1st floor)

Medical Care under Fire – Reclaiming humanitarian spaces

Delivering aid where it is needed the most, health care workers are often at the forefront of armed conflicts. The security of health workers in conflict zones hangs on a thin thread: The obligation to protect and respect medical personnel in contexts of armed conflict, embedded in international humanitarian law (IHL), is often not complied with in practice.

This solution-oriented panel discussion explores how to prevent the grinding down of respect and security of medical care in armed conflicts. We approach this topic by looking at the dilemmas that aid workers are confronted with when their security is threatened. We will consider the impressive record of humanitarians in implementing their own security measures, as well as their advocacy for the implementation of legal obligations with warring parties and the international community. Learning from best and failed practices we strive to understand how we can attach thick mooring ropes to IHL to reestablish trust in its underlying principles. Drawing from the expertise of the room, the panel will be interactively guided by contributions of the audience.

Aurelien Buffler | Chief of Policy Advice and Planning, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Dr Houssam al-Nahhas | Health and Human Rights Researcher, Physicians for Human Rights

Ana Elisa Barbar | Consultant, World Health Organisation

Chair:

Christina Wille | Director, Insecurity Insight

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2024

All-day

FREE MEDIA TRAINING PROVIDED BY DEUTSCHE WELLE ACADEMY

08:30 - 9:00

Foyer

REGISTRATION

9:00 - 10:00

Kleistsaal (1st Floor) & Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Welcome & Keynote Adress by Ugochi Daniels

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ugochi Daniels | Deputy Director General for Operations, International Organization for Migration

Chair: **William Anderson** | Executive Director, Sphere Standards

10:00 - 10:30 | COFFEE BREAK

10:30 - 12:00

Kleistsaal (1st Floor)

Humanitarianism in the Shadow of Politics: Navigating Aid under Pressure

Humanitarian work takes place in geopolitical contexts and complex crises, whose drivers and root causes have always been important factors influencing how aid is funded and delivered. Humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, that aid must solely be based on needs, guided the work. Recent years show that contextual complexity is often reduced to simplistic narratives on who deserves aid and who doesn't, while the global context is changing significantly. Do these changes drive us further away from principled humanitarian action and are we still serving the "most in need"? Has aid ever been non-political? Based on their experience and expertise, the panelists will critically discuss the politicization of humanitarian work of different stakeholders in a post-colonial framework and with competing narratives – its impact on affected communities, staff members and on implementation of aid projects. What lessons and recommendations can be drawn for the future of (principled) humanitarian action?

Marta Lorenzo | Director of the Regional Office of Europe, UNRWA

Prof. Thea Hilhorst | Professor for Humanitarian Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Olivier Vandecasteele | Founder, Protect Humanitarians

Chair:

Wafa'a Al Saidy | Head of Mission Syria, Médecins du Monde

Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Young Voices in Humanitarian Law: Paradigm Shifts and Technological Change

A multitude of paradigm shifts are changing daily life and the future, including the perception of long-standing IHL by a young algorithm-savvy, globally connected generation. Especially when it comes to highlighting innovative aspects of IHL, one should not ignore the technological dangers. In already crisis-ridden regions, feigned neutrality, independence, or participation in either a positive or negative sense is an issue that the younger generation must address when thinking about innovations in IHL. How do young people today understand and feel about international humanitarian law (IHL) and the policies in place when it comes to armed conflict? Many young people want to build bridges and remind others that building peace requires effort and commitment. Others choose the easy path and stray into confrontational ideologies. This diversity means that new solutions to complex humanitarian challenges must be found, including for IHL. This panel will discuss what this might look like.

Dr. Tassilo Singer | Lecturer "Technical Data Protection", University of the Bundeswehr Munich

Erik Tuchtfield | Research Associate, Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg

Delphine Dogot | Associate Professor of Law, University Catholique de Lille

Dr. Claire Vergerio | Senior Assistant Professor of International Relation, Leiden University

Mirka Schäfer | Head of Advocacy & Mobilisation, SOS Humanity

Chair:

Dr. Katja Schöberl | Manager for International Relations/ Advisor Political & Movement Relations, German Red Cross

Keplersaal (1st Floor)

The Shrinking Pie: Tackling Funding Shortfalls in Global Health

With shrinking foreign aid budgets and upcoming pledging campaigns, multilateral financing organizations face significant budget cuts, potentially reducing vital health services in high-burden countries. Many countries have not fully recovered from COVID-19, which severely impacted the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Humanitarian needs are also at an all-time high due to conflicts and the climate crisis, complicating health service delivery.

The next few years are crucial for global health organizations like Gavi, the Global Fund, WHO, and the Pandemic Fund as they seek new funding. If these organizations fail to fulfill their missions, there will be setbacks in infectious disease control and routine immunization, reversing progress on Sustainable Development Goal 3. Cost-saving measures, debt relief, and alternative funding must be explored to strengthen health services and mitigate budget crises. This panel will discuss cost-saving strategies, resource mobilization, and the roles of donor countries and civil society in mitigating cutbacks.

Mit Philipps | Coordinator Health Politics Team, MSF OCB

Yolanda Paul | Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Katja Pohlmann | Head of Division for Global Health, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Chair:

Andrew Green | Contributing Reporter, Devex

12:00 - 13:00 | LUNCH

13:00 - 14:30

Kleistsaal (1st Floor)

Unpacking the Climate-Water-Nexus: Climate Change Adaptation in Humanitarian WASH

The climate crisis with its growing number of looming droughts and severe floodings is increasing humanitarian needs worldwide. Disasters are becoming more frequent and severe and the resilience of those affected is declining. All projections indicate that this situation will worsen.

The scale and nature of climate change will have specific impacts on the humanitarian WASH sector. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services are confronted by multiple growing challenges, such as: increased demand for water due to heat, increased pathogen activity in stored water and increased likelihood of overflow or damage to sanitation infrastructure. Water insecurity is also expected to grow in many regions across the globe.

The session "Unpacking the Climate-Water Nexus" spotlights climate change adaptation in humanitarian WASH. What are the challenges and technical solutions in light of growing water insecurity and other climate-related changes in the WASH sector?

Mercy Kieni | Public Health Engineer & WASH expert, Oxfam Kenya

Dr. Karen Lebek | Scientific Coordinator at the Institute of Environmental Science and Geography, University of Potsdam

Paul Knox-Clarke | Consultant & Researcher in organisational and humanitarian effectiveness, ADAPT Initiative

Chair:

Nishanie Jayamaha | Co-lead Climate and Environment Charter Secretariat and Founder, Nik's Fudo

Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Gated Europe: Humanitarian Challenges and Responses to EU Migration Policies

The European Union is increasingly closing itself off from refugees, creating a 'gated Europe' where its external borders have become hotspots of death, despair, and destitution. Despite having the wealth and capacity to manage the humanitarian challenges posed by refugee movements, EU states prioritize deterrence and outsourcing, often through ethically questionable deals. Humanitarian actors, filling the gaps in aid provision, risk becoming part of a system that uses structural violence as a deterrence tool. At the same time, the space for humanitarian work is shrinking, with increasing criminalization of aid providers and restricted access to vulnerable populations. This panel will explore how humanitarian actors can navigate this dehumanizing landscape and hold EU states accountable for violating European and international law.

Chris Jones | Executive Director, Statewatch

Ruben Andersson | Professor of Social Anthropology, Oxford University

Chloe Marshall-Denton | Head of the Forced Migration Team – Analysis Department, Médecins Sans Frontières – Operational Centre of Brussels

Chair:

Karoline Popp | Migration Professional / Researcher, Expert Council on Integration and Migration

Keplersaal (1st Floor)

Hidden Wounds: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Crises

With Ukraine and Gaza as current examples, this panel aims to discuss how concepts of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) are integrated and delivered in humanitarian work in complex crisis settings and emergencies and what the lessons learned are – also for the mental health of our own staff.

The panelists will discuss the mental health (+social) impacts and traumatic, long-lasting or intergenerational effects of crises situations on affected communities, especially children. What concepts are applied currently in humanitarian and development work, how do they relate to local culture and contexts, how is priority setting on the ground being considered?

Examples from their daily work will highlight the challenges, that practitioners, staff of international and local NGOs are facing in providing MHPSS services to affected communities. What kind of answers and tools were useful, what works and what doesn't and why.

Sameh Hendi | MHPSS Technical Advisor, Ukraine Country Office Save the Children

Usche Merk | Transnational Cooperation and Psychosocial Work, Medico

Hanan Ismael | Psychologist, Westbank oPT, Médecins du Monde Spain

Ohayla Shomar | MHPSS Coordinator, SAWA Foundation oPT

Chair:

Pennina Munguti | Regional head of East-Africa, ArcheNova

14:30 - 15:00 | **COFFEE BREAK**

15:00 - 16:00

Kleistsaal (1st Floor) & Edisonsaal (2nd Floor)

Concluding Reflections and Take Aways with Anita Kattakuzhy and Dr. Hugo Slim

Anita Kattakuzhy | Director of Policy, NEAR

&

Dr. Hugo Slim | Senior Research Fellow, University of Oxford

16:00

END OF CONFERENCE