

European Humanitarian Forum Forum humanitaire européen



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Key Recommendations - Regional consultation LAC, 17 November 2021 Humanitarian Access in Latin America and the Caribbean

- **The EU and its MS should strengthen support for coordinated safety analysis and collective access strategy to protect humanitarian space.**

The Latin American and the Caribbean context is becoming increasingly complex and the risk landscape to the delivery of assistance is shrinking humanitarian space and access. This situation should be addressed through consistent, principled, systematised, and coordinated processes to collect, analyse, share, and use data and information to enable evidence-informed humanitarian access strategies.

This analysis should be focused on specific humanitarian risks, weaknesses, forces, threats, and opportunities. Framing the humanitarian space issue only in relation to IHL or other specific international law frameworks hampers the visibility on constraints that exist in different contexts (such as other situation of violence or governmental repression), in which humanitarian needs and risks for affected populations remain dire or similar to international or non-international armed conflicts.

- **The EU and its MS should ensure strong advocacy to increase visibility and awareness of most urgent humanitarian needs, enhancing negotiation opportunities for the humanitarian community with authorities and governments.**

The lack of or ineffective coordination for joint advocacy strategies affects the more (or less) visibility of certain crises and consequently, the capacity of humanitarian actors to protect their space of action to provide assistance to the most vulnerable populations. The disinterest (or appearance of) on the so-called “forgotten crises” at international level also has a direct impact on the negotiation power of humanitarian actors vis-à-vis governments and armed non-state actors, among others, and therefore, their ability to timely access to affected communities and deliver quality and immediate aid.

- **The EU and its MS should increase budget and flexible direct costs to strengthen humanitarian actors’ safety and capacities to adapt interventions.**

The less predictable dynamics of armed non-state actors and increasingly controlled restrictions enforced by national authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean region require more relevant funding solutions to ensure appropriate resources to partners for safety analysis and capacities, as well as to rapidly adapt access and implementation strategies according to very dynamic contexts.

- **The EU and its MS should reinforce broader dissemination of humanitarian principles to all stakeholders (incl. other donors and governments) to ensure broader understanding and separation of the specific humanitarian mandate.**

The Humanitarian Principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence are fundamental to humanitarian action. Humanitarian principles define what humanitarian aid is: delivering life-saving assistance to those in need, without any adverse distinction. They distinguish humanitarian aid from other activities, for example those of political or military nature. Adherence to the humanitarian principles facilitates access and acceptance and helps humanitarian workers carry out their work.