

European Humanitarian Forum – Field Consultation

“ENHANCING HUMANITARIAN SPACE: ACCESS AND PROTECTION OF HUMANITARIAN WORKERS”

FINAL ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The EU and MS should prioritize engaging in **high level advocacy** as well as **regionally targeted humanitarian diplomacy on Humanitarian Access and Protection of Humanitarian Workers**, using resources already available such as the Special Representatives. Advocacy should be tailored and targeted to a specific context and needs to be considered as a **joint responsibility** – it cannot be the sole responsibility of operational partners in the field that risk operations/ staff.
- Systematic and reliable data is key to building robust and evidence-based advocacy, and to building the trust of other stakeholders. The EU and MS should further **support the work of global organizations** that are **specialized in data collection and analysis**.
- The EU and MS should financially **support the development, capacity and functioning of national-level advocacy working groups** and the development of joint advocacy strategies on access.
- **Donors should promote accountability of the humanitarian leadership in advocating** for enhanced humanitarian space on behalf of the broader humanitarian aid community in-country, as and when requested. This could include sub-national HCs deployment to focus on specific contexts, and to help improve access and protection of aid workers with local authorities, including NSAGs according to a principled approach.
- The EU and MS should ensure that the **humanitarian, stabilization and development branches of their government are aligned in their advocacy on the preservation of humanitarian space**.
- Ensure partners can **fund risk mitigation strategies** (advocacy on access, security) as part of implementation of programmes and not just as currently done, as support costs.
- It is crucial to prevent the transfer of risk to local partners. Enhanced measures need to look at **increased funding for security risk management capacities** (equipment, staff, training, procedures, humanitarian air transport), to allow them to approach the same level of security protection and independence as is provided for international NGOs/UN/IOs, as well as inclusion in existing coordination mechanisms and protocols such as on information flows, evacuation procedures and CMCoord.
- The EU and its MS should allow **greater flexibility of geographic programming and security budgeting**, given the volatile dynamics in many conflict areas, with threat and risk levels changing very rapidly.
- Crucial to have **wider humanitarian guarantees and exemptions from EU and MS counter-terrorist legislation and EU/MS/UN sanctions regimes**, and for the development of specific legislation protecting humanitarian workers vulnerable to such legislation. This applies to legislation enacted by both donor and recipient countries. In the case of the latter, MS should also **negotiate** (and eventually condition) **into their bilateral agreements guarantees of humanitarian access to areas outside government control**.