

European Humanitarian Forum Forum humanitaire européen



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The European Humanitarian Forum (EHF)

“ Armed Non-State Actors And Humanitarian Assistance – Field Perspectives On Why And How To Engage”

Report - 16 November 2021

FIELD CONSULTATION PROCESS

With the objective of bringing the voice from the field to the **European Humanitarian Forum**, ECHO Dakar Regional Office organised a Field consultation, on the subject *“ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE – FIELD PERSPECTIVES ON WHY AND HOW TO ENGAGE”*.

Selection of participants to the Field consultation

ECHO COs in Africa were invited to express their interest to participate in the field consultation *“ARMED NON-STATE ACTORS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE – FIELD PERSPECTIVES ON WHY AND HOW TO ENGAGE”* according to the relevance of the subject in their respective context. ECHO COs then launched a nomination process to select participants, prioritizing practitioners, from their countries to the consultation. To keep the overall number of participants to a manageable size, INGOs and UN agencies were asked to consult amongst peers and to nominate representatives. INGOs forums nominated one member to represent the others.

Pre-consultation questionnaire

The field consultation was preceded by an online questionnaire with five guiding questions to the participants. The goal was to collect and consolidate views beforehand so that the consultation day itself could be dedicated to formulating recommendations.

Guiding questions:

1 - Could you elaborate why, from a humanitarian perspective, it is relevant in your context to engage with ANSAs. Please give as specific examples as possible.

3 – Could you indicate to which extent humanitarian organizations have been able to engage with ANSAs in your country?

3- Could you share concrete examples on how you engage? What are the practices?

4 – Could you indicate, as precisely as possible, what are the challenges in engaging with ANSAs in your country?

5 – Would you have specific suggestions to make, including asks to the diplomatic and donor community, on how to address the challenges?

At the request of several participants, specific measures were adopted to guarantee confidentiality on this questionnaire given the sensitivity of the subject. The questionnaires were hence replied only by the whitelisted recipients and were not shared beyond the ICVA consultant and ECHO HoRO.

A total of 17 questionnaires were submitted by INGO Forums, individuals NGOs, UN agencies, ICRC Delegations, 1 LNNGO.

A synthesis of the questionnaires was produced by ICVA consultant.

Participation to the consultation

The four-hour field consultation was organised virtually using an interactive and secured platform (Airmeeet) and gathered a total of 47 participants.

Agenda

Opening

The consultation started with an opening session delivered by HoU D2, Giuseppe Angelini, who provided a general presentation of the EHF, explained the expected articulation between the Field Consultation and the EHF and invited participants to work in an output-oriented way to formulate clear recommendations and asks to be conveyed to the EHF audience.

Presentation of the process

The process was presented by the HoRO.

Presentation of the synthesis

ICVA presented the synthesis of the questionnaires in plenary, consolidating the views expressed by field practitioners on the five guiding questions. This was followed by an exchange, where participants could react and ask for clarifications. The synthesis was then adopted.

Elaboration of recommendations - World Café

The challenges preventing engagement with ANSAs, as presented in the synthesis, were regrouped into two categories. Two groups were invited to reflect upon recommendations to address these challenges. The groups were then shifted, and the World Café format enabled them to build on previous recommendations. To provide the most conducive space for discussion, the working groups were only open to the field practitioners. ECHO HQ, ECHO COs and EUDEL were invited to reconvene in plenary for the restitution of recommendations and the ensuing exchange. The groups sessions were facilitated by members of the Dakar-based regional Task Force for Humanitarian Principles and Access. The engagement of participants was remarkable.

Presentation of the recommendations

Recommendations were presented in plenary by the facilitators in their “raw form – hot from the working groups”. An exchange followed the presentations and recommendations were left on the Miro board, accessible to all participants on the Airmeet platform for an additional four hours. Participants could this way post their remarks (anonymously, in order to express different / opposing views if needed).

Drafting of a one pager report

A one pager report with the key recommendations to the EHF was drafted by ICVA and reviewed by ECHO. It was then shared with participants for comments before its finalisation.