

European Humanitarian Forum Forum humanitaire européen



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The European Humanitarian Forum (EHF)

“Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination as an enabler for the respect of and compliance with IHL”

Report - 20 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 *“Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination as an enabler for the respect of and compliance with IHL”*.

Selection of participants to the Field consultation

ECHO COs in Africa were invited to express their interest to participate in the field consultation *“Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination as an enabler for the respect of and compliance with IHL”* 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:

- *Why is CMCoord important in your context? What are the fundamental issues at stake in terms of CMCoord in your context?*
- *What are the main achievements of CMCoord in your context?*

- *What are the limitations of CMCoord in your context? Where and how is it failing to deliver? Can it be improved, and if so how?*
- *Besides its current function, would you see a potential enhanced role that CMCoord could play in support of IHL? In which direction and how?*
- *What are your suggestions and recommendations for the way forward towards a more performing CMCoord?*

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 22 questionnaires were submitted by INGO Forums, individuals NGOs, UN agencies, ICRC Delegations.

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 40 participants.

Agenda

Opening

The consultation started with an opening session delivered by ECHO Civil Military Relations Officer, Apostolos Nikolaidis, 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 limitations of CMCoord, as presented in the synthesis, were regrouped into two categories. Two groups were invited to reflect upon recommendations to address these limitations. 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 with substantial sharing of their own experiences.

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.