



WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT



UNHCR/F. Noj

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the World Humanitarian Summit?

The World Humanitarian Summit is an initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General to forge new partnerships and find better ways to meet humanitarian needs in the decades to come. The summit will bring together governments, humanitarian organizations, people affected by humanitarian crises and new partners including the private sector to propose solutions to our most pressing challenges and set a new agenda to meet the needs of millions of people affected by conflicts and disasters now and into the future.

worldhumanitariansummit.org

Why now?

The last global discussion on humanitarian action took place almost 25 years ago. Since then, the humanitarian landscape has changed tremendously. There have been global economic shifts, demographic changes such as urbanization, and tremendous improvements in technology. At the same time, humanity is facing new challenges caused by global trends such as climate change and rapid population growth.

The number of people affected by humanitarian crises has almost doubled over the past decade, and is expected to keep rising. Today, more people are affected by conflict and disaster, more frequently, and for longer than in previous decades. Humanitarian action must continue evolving in order to keep pace with our rapidly changing world and meet the needs of millions of people now and in years to come.

When and where will events be held?

The World Humanitarian Summit will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2016.

In the lead-up to the summit, eight regional consultations will take place:

- West and Central Africa – Ivory Coast, 19-20 June 2014
- North and Southeast Asia – Japan, 23-24 July 2014
- South and East Africa – South Africa, 27-29 October 2014
- Eastern Europe, Western Europe and Others Group – Hungary, 3-4 February 2015
- Middle East and North Africa – Jordan, 3-5 March 2015
- Latin America and the Caribbean – Guatemala, 5-7 May 2015
- Pacific Region – New Zealand, 30 June - 2 July 2015
- South and Central Asia - Tajikistan, 28-30 July 2015
- Global Consultation, Switzerland – 14-16 October 2015

What issues will be discussed?

Participants of the regional and online consultations will prioritize the relevant issues in their respective regions. Four major themes will serve as broad categories to guide the conversations and ensuing recommendations. These have been identified through a comprehensive dialogue with governments, humanitarian organizations, and communities. Over-arching issues and cross-cutting themes will also be identified.

The four themes are:

1. Humanitarian effectiveness
2. Reducing vulnerability and managing risk
3. Transformation through innovation
4. Serving the needs of people in conflict

What are the expected outcomes of the Summit?

The Summit is expected to propose a new agenda for humanitarian action.

How will it work?

- In the two years leading up to the summit, extensive consultations will be held to gather the perspectives, priorities and recommendations of all stakeholders on what must be done to make humanitarian action fit for the future.
- In 2014 and 2015, eight regional consultations will be held to gather views from around the world about how we can jointly address future needs. In addition, consultations will take place online beginning in May 2014.
- Throughout the consultation phase, teams of thematic experts will work to bring the results of the regional consultations together with findings from global research and policy work, identify areas of consensus and points of divergence, and develop an overarching picture of what is needed for the future of humanitarian action. The thematic experts will play a 'broker' role to ensure that the results of these processes translate into clear recommendations.
- Around the common thread of building resilience to the changing nature of shocks and stresses, the WHS will also build clear linkages with concurrent global development, disaster risk reduction and climate change processes.
- Towards the end of 2015, a thematic consultation and a global consultation meeting will be held to bring together the results of the thematic work, the online consultations and the regional consultations together into a set of concrete recommendations for the future.
- These recommendations will be presented in a final report of the Secretary-General and will set the agenda for the summit.
- The summit will take place in Istanbul in May 2016. It will bring together global leaders, humanitarian actors, civil society organizations and new partners including the private sector to collectively agree on what needs to be done to keep humanitarian action fit for the future.

How will the regional consultations be organized?

Regional Steering Groups (RSG) are being formed for each region. The RSGs will guide the conceptual and logistical planning for the regional consultations. The RSG will consist of approximately 12 members (representing their country/organization, but serving in an individual capacity) who will set the agenda, determine criteria for the selection of participants, identify key issues of relevance in the region under each of the four summit themes, and endorse the outcome of the regional consultation. In addition to geographic, organizational and gender diversity, RSG members will be chosen to ensure an appropriate mix of skills and backgrounds among the members.

Who will participate?

- People and communities who have been affected by disasters and conflicts, and their local organizations;
- National governments and regional organizations (including affected countries and donors, and emerging and interested partners);
- Established humanitarian and development organizations (including local and international NGOs, UN agencies, and the Red Cross / Red Crescent movement));
- Other humanitarian actors such as civil society organizations, businesses, militaries, academic institutions, and faith-based organizations.

Who is organizing this?

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has tasked the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to coordinate the WHS. OCHA has worked closely with partners and key stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, UN agencies, the Red Cross / Red Crescent movement, civil society organizations, community groups, businesses, academic institutions and others on the preparations, and will continue to do so in the lead-up to the summit and beyond.

Is this an inter-governmental process?

The World Humanitarian Summit is not an intergovernmental process. It is meant to mirror the de-facto realities of humanitarian action and preparedness, in which multiple humanitarian actors are involved, including Member States and non-governmental actors, such as national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies, community organizations, bilateral government organizations and regional partners, the private sector, diasporas and multilateral humanitarian organizations. The summit will bring all of these actors together to gather their perspectives.

How can partners get involved?

Partners can contribute to an inclusive consultation process by:

- Contributing to discussions on www.worldhumanitariansummit.org;
- Raising awareness about the summit and facilitating participation in the online and regional consultations, especially among civil society and affected communities;
- Conducting independent consultations around a geographic area, a constituency or as a contribution to a particular theme;
- Contributing research, briefing papers, analytical work or think-pieces to the thematic consultation;
- Hosting preparatory conferences or events;
- Linking other key events taking place at the global, regional or national level to overall goal of the WHS;
- Supporting the WHS financially.

How and when can individuals be involved?

Individuals can be involved at any stage in the process by:

- Registering on www.worldhumanitariansummit.org and share opinions and ideas online;
- Signing up to receive our monthly newsletter and receive the latest news about the WHS preparations;
- Joining the conversation on social media by following us on Facebook (facebook.com/WHSummit), Twitter ([@WHSummit](https://twitter.com/WHSummit)), and Instagram ([@whsummit](https://instagram.com/whsummit)), and by following the hashtag #ReShapeAid.