

Ireland's Consultative Process in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit 2016

Ireland is preparing at the national level for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul in 2016. The Irish Government will use the opportunity of the Summit to re-affirm our national commitment to principled humanitarian action and to articulate Irish perspectives on its future. This process will bring together the breadth and diversity of opinion within the different groups of actors in Ireland who are engaged in humanitarian response (Government, Defence Forces, Civil Society, Academia and Private Sector). A shared understanding of the challenges, opportunities and future of humanitarian action will be formulated through dialogue among and between these groups whose diversity largely mirrors the complexities and disparities seen at the global level. .

Ireland's WHS preparations seek to provide input to the Summit in Istanbul, and raise awareness and understanding in Ireland on our shared humanitarian endeavour. We want to use this global event as an opportunity to build and consolidate commitment to principled humanitarian engagement amongst the key stakeholders in Ireland.

To drive the process, we are establishing Steering Committee and a small National Secretariat which will be housed in the Centre for Humanitarian Action, University College Dublin. We will be arranging a series of events and consultations in the lead up to the Summit and will convene our own 'Irish Humanitarian Summit' in 2015 in Dublin. This National Steering Committee is represented at the highest level in UN OCHA's global consultation process with a representative on one of the four thematic teams¹ that have been established to steer the consultation process.

Process for Delivery

The Irish Government is engaging University College Dublin's Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA) to act as the Secretariat to coordinate this consultative process based on the following guiding framework:

- The Irish consultative process will be governed by a Steering Committee that comprises five key humanitarian stakeholder groupings (public, private, NGO, academia and diaspora residing in Ireland). The Steering Committee will oversee the implementation and delivery of a Project Strategy guiding Ireland's WHS process;
- Each stakeholder group on the Steering Committee will have two representatives² who will be charged with developing an action plan to engage their respective constituencies in the consultative process. These action plans will be combined to form a key component of the Project Strategy;
- The Project Strategy will be implemented and managed by a project manager who will be assisted by a web administrator. The primary function of the latter is to establish and maintain a web site replicating that of the WHS, but designed to share information about the process as widely as possible within Ireland. Both staff will be supported by UCD's Centre for Humanitarian Action to ensure that the consultative process is rigorous and complies with best practice in social research;
- The main consultative process in Ireland will comprise of three phases:
 - **Phase 1:** Each stakeholder group will review its current status and formulate its perceived humanitarian roles post 2016. Each group will then prepare its position on each of the four

¹ The four themes are: (i) Humanitarian effectiveness; (ii) Transformation through innovation; (iii) Serving the needs of people in conflict; and (iv) Reducing vulnerability and managing risk.

² Where possible, these organisational representatives are elected from organisations/entities that have a coordination role - e.g. the umbrella NGO group or the Immigrant Council

thematic areas of the WHS and select representatives for each area in Phase 2. The output of Phase 1 will be a position paper from each stakeholder group on each thematic area. The timeframe for this is September to December 2014.

- **Phase 2:** A thematic group will be established for each of the WHS's themes. These groups will comprise representatives from each of the stakeholder groups. The output of this phase will be a single consolidated position paper on each thematic area. The timeframe for this is January to April 2015.
- **Phase 3:** Ireland will host its own humanitarian summit to share information from the previous phases and discuss the submission of Ireland's contribution to the WHS in September 2015. In the lead up to this summit there will be a process for agreeing and disseminating the final documents. This summit will target members of all of the stakeholder groups and key actors relevant to the WHS from outside of Ireland. The timeframe for this is September 2015.
- The Project Manager and the Web Administrator will continue to update Ireland's humanitarian community on the combined submission and the larger WHS process in 2016. The details of the Irish engagement in the Summit will very much depend on guidelines to be developed by UN OCHA.

The project management team will keep the general public involved in the consultative process through the mass media (newspaper and radio), town hall meetings and a social media platform, which will be established to allow interested individuals and groups to participate and feed into the consultative process.

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