



World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Time and place:

23-24 May 2016 in Istanbul

Objectives:

Find ways to better tackle humanitarian needs in a fast-changing world; develop strong partnerships and seek innovative solutions to current and future challenges

Priorities:

Humanitarian effectiveness; reducing vulnerabilities and managing risks; transformation through innovation; serving the needs of people in conflict

Outcome:

A strategic agenda for work beyond 2016 that should be translated into action by all key stakeholders after the Summit

EU Contribution:

The European Commission has set out its [strategic vision](#) for reshaping humanitarian action ahead of the summit. At the summit itself it proposed 100 individual commitments..

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Key messages

- The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) took place on 23-24 May 2016 in Istanbul. It was the culmination of a global consultation process with over **23 000 stakeholders** and brought together the international community to **reshape** the way **humanitarian aid** is delivered.
- The European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) has been actively involved in the two-year long preparations to the summit. As one of the world's largest humanitarian aid donors, the European Union considers it a responsibility to seize every opportunity to make humanitarian assistance **more effective** and humanitarian work **less dangerous**.
- The European Union has proposed **individual commitments** to action, aiming to build and reinforce a global partnership to work together to better serve people in need.
- Investing in resilience, ensuring more efficient and effective financing, promoting respect of International Humanitarian Law and bridging the gap between the humanitarian and development work are among the **key priorities** advanced by the EU at the summit.
- The EU has also welcomed the launch of the **"Grand Bargain"** at the Summit and is ready to help tackle the funding gap in humanitarian action, estimated to be US\$15 billion by the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel (HLP) on Humanitarian Financing.

Background

The basis of the current humanitarian system is UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991) established over two decades ago. In the meantime, humanitarian needs have increased in scope and diversity and the environment in which it is delivered has grown more complex. Against this background, UNSG Ban Ki-moon announced the organisation of a World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

The Summit took place in Istanbul on 23-24 May 2016. It was the culmination of a two-year consultation process. The World Humanitarian Summit built on the commitments of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

A number of **regional and global consultations** had been organised in preparation of the Summit: 8 regional consultations as well as thematic and global consultations. The inclusive process involved governments (affected countries, donors, and interested governments), formal international humanitarian organisations (UN agencies, civil society organisations), community responders (affected people and their local and community organisations), associated partners (private sector, militaries, charities and foundations) as well as research institutions (think tanks and academics).

The Summit enabled the international community to come together to find more effective ways of working towards the common objective of saving lives and alleviating suffering. The objective of the WHS was to adapt the current modus operandi to better serve people in need by:

- Re-committing to the humanitarian principles;
- Enabling countries and communities to better prepare for and respond to crises;
- Share best practices, put affected people at the centre of humanitarian action, and alleviate suffering.

The Summit in Istanbul set the working agenda for beyond 2016. The commitments should be translated into concrete action by all key stakeholders afterwards.

Contribution of the European Union

The European Union and its Member States play a leading role in global humanitarian affairs. They are not only major humanitarian donors but also key policy-setters with vast operational experience. The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) have been actively involved in the preparations to the Summit from the outset. It co-organised the preparatory European consultation (Budapest, 3-4 February 2015), followed all other regional consultations, and has participated in the global consultations in Geneva (14-16 October 2015). ECHO also contributed to OCHA-led studies.

The European Commission's strategic vision for reshaping humanitarian action is laid out in the Communication "[Towards the World Humanitarian Summit – A global partnership for principled and effective humanitarian action](#)". The underlying message is to build and reinforce a global partnership working together to achieve the common objectives of saving lives, preventing and alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity.

The EU's position ahead of the WHS was set out in the [Council Conclusions of 12 May 2016](#).



IN OUR CHANGING WORLD

50 MILLION people live in **conflict zones**

100 MILLION people are affected by **natural disasters** every year

250 MILLION people are now affected by or exposed to **humanitarian crises** due to social and economic fragility.

THE EU HAS PROPOSED A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP TO MAKE AID MORE EFFECTIVE IN SAVING LIVES, PREVENTING DISASTERS AND ENABLING RECOVERY.

PRINCIPLED Humanitarian Action

- Reaffirming **HUMANITARIAN VALUES**
- Ensuring **ACCESS** to people in need
- Putting **PROTECTION** at the heart of response

EFFECTIVE Humanitarian Action

- Guaranteeing **EFFECTIVE** humanitarian action
- Fostering **LOCAL LEVEL ACTION** and **SOLIDARITY**
- Providing **EFFICIENT** and **SUFFICIENT** funding
- Partnering with the **DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**

See how the EU proposes to #ReShapeAid: ec.europa.eu/echo/whs

These global challenges will be tackled at the **WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT, MAY 2016**
TOGETHER, WE CAN #RESHAPEAID FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Next steps

The EU welcomed the political communiqué endorsed on this occasion of the summit. The European Union pledged individual commitments at the event concerning policies, programmes and funds it is responsible for and is committed to strong progress on each of the five core responsibility areas, for which core commitments have been formulated by the UN. Investing in resilience, ensuring more efficient and effective financing, promoting respect of International Humanitarian Law and bridging the gap between the humanitarian and development work were among the key priorities advanced by the EU at the World Humanitarian Summit.

The EU has welcomed the launch of the "[Grand Bargain](#)" at the Summit and is ready to help tackle the funding gap in humanitarian action, estimated to be US\$15 billion by the United Nations Secretary-General's [High-Level Panel \(HLP\) on Humanitarian Financing](#).

The EU is one of the first donors to have reached in 2016 the global target of four per cent of humanitarian funding earmarked for education. With the announcement of its €5 million of support to the 'Education Cannot Wait – A Fund for Education in Emergencies' platform, the EU has taken further concrete action to support this priority.

The joint work towards a new global partnership for more effective and principled humanitarian aid is only just beginning. The next steps will be to transform the commitments made at the Summit into concrete action. The European Union, as one of the world's largest donor of humanitarian aid, will play its full part in reshaping aid to better serve the people in need and calls on all world leaders to do the same.

