Post World Humanitarian Summit

OCHA Briefing to NGOs with Hansjoerg Strohmeyer
Chief of OCHA’s Policy Development and Studies Branch

Overall summary

On 1 November, ICVA convened a meeting between NGOs and Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of OCHA’s Policy Development and Studies Branch. Throughout the session, OCHA confirmed that the push, interest and need a robust follow-up from the WHS is predominately coming from the NGO community, along with questions around accountability, and how to incorporate these commitments into operational and organisational plans. NGO comments also highlighted the very little impact witnessed to date from the WHS in operational realities.

Inline with the Secretary General’s report of the outcomes of the WHS, Hansjoerg discussed the various vehicles to maintain momentum moving forward:

1. The Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformation (PACT), which is an online platform that captures all 3,500 documented commitments, aligned to five core responsibilities and their corresponding 24 ‘policy shift areas’;
2. An annual report, undertaken by OCHA to review progress over the last year the implementation commitments and policy shifts;
3. Continued engagement and outreach with all stakeholders to continue dialogue and discussion at both global and regional levels; and
4. A high-level, ‘stocktaking’ event, to take place between 2018-2020, to reflect on the movement of the core responsibilities and policy shifts over the preceding five years.

A webinar recording of the session is available here, with further detail below.

Platform for Action, Commitments & Transformation (PACT) and the Commitments to Action Document

- Verbal commitments at the WHS are yet to be reflected in the Commitments to Action Document and the PACT. Both products currently reflect only those 3,500 commitments submitted through the WHS commitments portal prior to the WHS. A large number of verbal commitments were announced at the WHS, especially from Member States (MS) from the Global South. These commitments will be reflected as they are processes and clarified.
- The PACT represents a key platform for the Agenda for humanity. Site visitors can explore commitments and discover initiatives that will be organized by core responsibilities and policy shifts.
- Following the development of a voluntary, self-reporting mechanism, it will be possible to search for each organization’s progress on the implementation of their commitments. This will serve as a useful tool to hold humanitarian actors and MS’ to account.
Annual Report

- A report will be released each year, providing a synopsis of progress achieved across the five core responsibility areas and the 24 corresponding policy shifts.
- The first annual report will most likely be released in September of 2017.

High level stocktaking event

- A high level stock taking event will likely occur in the next three to five years, whilst remaining conscious of not overwhelming humanitarian actors by convening another global summit/event prematurely. It must come with time when there is something to stock take.

Ongoing dialogue & championing of core responsibilities & policy shifts

- NGOs are encouraged to share what they are doing in terms of which policy shifts and core responses they will champion.
- Member States from the Global South were underrepresented throughout the WHS process. Moving ahead, MS from the Global South must be more proactively engaged in dialogue and for operational implications.
- Some commitments will be more successful than others – determined by organisations’ own implementation of their commitments, the creation of champions and continued sharing of information, progress and challenges.
- NGOs are encouraged to reach out to MS that were supportive of specific policy shifts to create ‘clusters of champions’
- The Annual Global Humanitarian Policy forum will serve as one forum to continue discussing issues raised at the WHS. Side events at this forum will be held to illustrate progress and momentum.

Regional steering Groups

- Regional steering groups will continue. The specific structure, role, strategy and process to be determined – also recognizing the various level of momentum from different RSGs.