

2019 IOM-NGO Regional Humanitarian Consultation

Humanitarian Access in Emergencies and Protracted Crises 29-30 October 2019 – Istanbul, Turkey

The 2019 IOM-NGO Regional Humanitarian Consultation will focus on humanitarian access in emergencies and protracted crises. Access is a fundamental pre-requisite to effective humanitarian response. In many crisis contexts today, humanitarian access – defined as the ability of humanitarian actors to reach populations affected by crisis, as well as an affected population’s ability to access humanitarian assistance and services – is pervasively and severely constrained due to active hostilities and logistical challenges, attacks against humanitarians, bureaucratic restrictions, among other issues. Access impediments pose potentially devastating impacts and long-term consequences for civilians.

Humanitarian access is a priority issue in ongoing humanitarian responses to crises in the MENA region including in Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, among others. The consultation will focus on the MENA region but will also actively promote opportunities for sharing experience and learning from joint IOM-NGO humanitarian crisis operations outside the region.

Regional Consultation for the MENA Region

The consultation will discuss some of the practical access challenges IOM and NGOs face in reaching those in greatest need and delve into strategies and good practices to overcome them. It will seek to examine access problems, setbacks and hindrances and review responses that can be applied in volatile and insecure environments to gain and maintain access to vulnerable populations, including through leveraging IOM and NGOs’ respective strengths, and in line with the respective mandates.

a. Date and Venue

The regional consultation for the MENA region will be held on 29 and 30 October 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, at the hotel Fairmont Quasar (see attached logistics note).

b. Objectives of the Consultation

The overall objective of the consultation is to improve humanitarian access to crisis affected people and contribute to more effective protection and assistance. The consultation seeks to foster open dialogue and encourage frank and constructive discussion on the realities of IOM-NGO partnerships in such settings and identify ways to reinforce joint engagement between IOM and NGOs.

c. Outcome

The expected outcome is a set of concrete recommendations and action points that leverage IOM-NGO complementarities in securing and sustaining access to affected populations.

The main recommendations and action points will be reflected in a consolidated report. This report will be made available on IOM [web page](#) devoted to the consultation process.

d. Agenda / Issues to be Discussed

The content and structure of the consultation agenda will be informed by NGOs' input to the [pre-event survey](#) (open until CoB 13 September) through which priority topics, key questions and recommendations will be captured. Issues that could be discussed include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Remote partnering approaches;
- ✓ Community acceptance – partnerships with L/NGOs to secure and maintain access;
- ✓ Shared approaches to risk management;
- ✓ Shared context analysis and conflict sensitivity - practical efforts and approaches;
- ✓ Relations and communications with affected communities in insecure settings;
- ✓ Complementary roles and responsibilities: skill sets and organizational capacities to operate in high-risk and access constraint environments;
- ✓ Local capacity to increase access to the most vulnerable populations in contexts where operational presence is low;
- ✓ Collective strategies to increase humanitarian coverage;
- ✓ Access to migrants in detention and protection and support available to them.

e. Participants

The event will provide a space for meaningful dialogue with IOM's humanitarian NGO partners. With the regional context in mind, participants will be considered and identified through the following modalities. Participants should be [ICVA members](#), other IOM NGOs partners, or NGOs with experience relevant to the theme of the consultation. The expectation is that NGOs participate by bringing concrete experience on the consultation theme and/or partnership with IOM. In order to ensure a result-oriented consultation, the number of participants is limited to a maximum of 60. Limited possibilities for sponsorship exist with priority given to representatives from local and national NGOs. NGOs to be sponsored will be selected in consultation with ICVA and IOM Regional and relevant Country Offices. Interested participants are encouraged to apply online through [this link](#) **as early as possible but no later than CoB Friday, 20 September 2019.**