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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 17 November 2022
To: Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
Subject: Field perspectives on advancing the nexus
- presentation by IFRC and ICRC

Following the COHAFA meeting of 16 November, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)¹ and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).²

¹ IFRC's identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 132236315085-89.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

Red Cross EU Office & ICRC presentation to COHAFA

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15 November 2022



ICRC



The role of impartial humanitarian organisations (IHO) in the implementation of the EU Nexus approach

“the humanitarian system alone cannot address needs of such magnitude and diversity, especially as crises will often reverse development progress, in particular when these crises become protracted”

Council Conclusions, May 2017

- From LRRD to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus
- The essential role of IHOs:
 - Anchorage in local community & acceptance
 - Responding to basic needs beyond traditional humanitarian assistance





ICRC

Global Europe - NDICI Instrument

The specific objectives of the Instrument are :

(d) to respond rapidly to: (i) situations of crisis, instability and conflict, including those which may result from migratory flows and forced displacement, and hybrid threats; (ii) **resilience challenges, including natural and man-made disasters, and linking of humanitarian aid and development action;**

The rapid response actions shall enable early action to:

(b) contribute to **strengthening the resilience of states, societies, communities and individuals and to linking humanitarian aid and development action and, where relevant, peacebuilding; while ensuring respect of humanitarian principles"**



ICRC

Partnerships with IHO: the impediment created by the "restrictive measures" clause

A discrepancy between the intentions stated in the Global Europe NDICI instrument and certain clauses applied to contracts with DG NEAR and DG INTPA

- Requirement to screen final beneficiaries of aid (art 2.4 of the PRAG)
- an impediment to IHOs who apply humanitarian principles at all times

Any breach to these principles would have consequences on the way the organisation is perceived at community level, at country level and worldwide and it could negatively impact its access to people in need.

And any action affecting the perception of such IHO could have dramatic consequences on the security of its personnel and the people it is meant to support.



IHOs cannot accept contractual obligations that run counter to humanitarian principles.





ICRC

A principled solution: the recognition of DG ECHO's Humanitarian Partners

Funding streams cannot be the decisive criterion to determine whether humanitarian principles and IHL should be upheld at contractual level.

DG ECHO's assessment of their partners includes the verification of the ability of an organisation to operate in conformity with humanitarian principles. Such assessment constitutes *de facto* an evaluation, by the European Commission, of the impartial and humanitarian nature of an organisation



We therefore recommend recognising the humanitarian nature of DG ECHO partners, and to reflect the wording of the respective restrictive measures clauses agreed upon between DG ECHO and IHOs in DG NEAR and DG INTPA's funding agreements



Thanks for your attention

Questions & Answers

