MACRO-TRENDS IN
HUMANITARIAN ACTION:
cash, digitalisation, and localisation

8:30-9:00: Registration and coffee

9:00-9:15 | Opening of the conference

- Eero Janson, Director, Estonian Refugee Council
- Mariin Ratnik, Undersecretary for Economic and Development Affairs, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

9:15-9:45 | Keynote speech on macro-trends in humanitarian assistance

- Juliet Parker, Director, ALNAP

9:45-10:00 Coffee break and networking

10:00-11:30 | A Flashing cash: is humanitarian cash here to stay?

Moderated by Kitty Paulus, Regional Programme Director for Central and Eastern Europe, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
Panelists:

- Eero Janson, Director, Estonian Refugee Council
- Quentin Le Gallo, Regional Thematic Expert, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- Louisa Seferis, Independent humanitarian practitioner and researcher

11:30-12:30 Lunch

12:30-14:00 | Make sense, not data: digitalisation in humanitarian assistance

Moderated by Karin Maasel, Executive Director, Data Friendly Space
Panelists:

- Luke Caley, Information Management Lead, IFRC
- Javier Teran, Data Partnerships Team Lead, Centre for Humanitarian Data, OCHA
- Zineb Bhaby, Head of Data Solutions, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

14:00-14:30 Coffee break and networking

14:30-16:00 | Does localisation work? Notes from Ukraine

Moderated by Helen Kaljuläte, Director, Division for Humanitarian Aid, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Panelists:

- Roksolana Nesterenko, Regional Analyst, NGO Centre of United Action (Ukraine)
- Oleg Masyk, Programme Officer for Protection and Health, Embassy of Switzerland in Ukraine
- Pit Köhler, Head of Division for Multilateral Policy on Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

16:00-16:30 Concluding remarks

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Flashing cash: is humanitarian cash here to stay?

Cash as a modality of assistance in humanitarian crises has grown rapidly in recent years. It has been promoted as an innovative, effective, cost-efficient, accessible and dignified way of delivering aid, helping people who face crises to respond to their own needs according to their own priorities. At the same time, cash-based assistance may pose risks related to beneficiary safety and corruption. Many humanitarian actors remain committed to in-kind assistance as the main assistance modality. This panel brings together different perspectives on the issue to examine the benefits and limitations of cash as a modality of humanitarian assistance, to discuss the interaction between humanitarian and state-provided social protection assistance, and to see whether the future of humanitarian assistance lies with cash.

Make sense, not data:
digitalisation in humanitarian assistance

The global digital revolution over the last two decades has created many opportunities and challenges for humanitarian actors in providing effective and principled assistance to people in need. On the one hand, digital technologies help to increase the efficiency of humanitarian assistance, reduce costs and create new ways of participation for and accountability to people affected by crises. On the other hand, however, people's dignity, safety and security might be at risk when data is not properly handled, and the digital divide may leave the most vulnerable groups without access to assistance. This panel brings together practitioners from different contexts to discuss the challenges and opportunities of data and digitalisation in humanitarian assistance.

Does localisation work? Notes from Ukraine

Whenever a crisis strikes, the ones directly affected by it are the first responders. The humanitarian sector aims to support and nurture local communities and organisations to respond in an effective and coordinated manner. Nevertheless, despite the broad aim of localisation, only a fraction of humanitarian funding is implemented through local actors, and response coordination may be affected when the number of responders grows. This panel brings together actors on different levels to discuss the interplay between localisation and coordination efforts and what could be done to localise without losing effective coordination.

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