

GSC Annual Event 2024 - Session Notes - Day 2 - 1

Date: 13 June 2024

Time: 9:15-10:00

Thematic area: Ignite Panel

Facilitator: Seki Hirano

Co-facilitator/Note taker: Sarah Pilchick

Number of participants & countries represented (if relevant):

Summary of the discussion

Panelists:

Sendralahatra Rakotondradalo: Democratic Republic of Congo Senior Shelter Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR

William Anderson: Executive Director of Sphere

Irwin Loy: Policy Editor / Journalist of The New Humanitarian

Marina Skuric-Prodanovic: Global Cluster Coordinators group, Chief, System-wide Approaches and Practices Section
OCHA

Sendralahatra Rakotondradalo: Action on the ground

“The needs are significantly increasing, and the resources are significantly decreasing.”

There is difficulty in balancing cost, coverage, quality, and sustainability.

Light shelter kit + plastic sheathing and rope (this is NOT enough, but it is becoming the norm)

When cost and coverage are at stake, creativity and innovation are restrained.

Donors need evidence, but what more evidence do we need besides what we see on the ground?

The local committees are the first donors and responders. The regional committee is willing and eager to work with us. It is critical to focus on sustainability and long-term reach. We need to prevent the MINIMUM standard from being the NORM.

William Anderson (Sphere)

The humanitarian community works with people who are experiencing trauma, grief, and loss in the context of disorder and chaos. This is a reminder of the importance of the Humanitarian principles of humanity and impartiality (Ethical) and Independence and Neutrality (operational tools).

It is impossible to do no harm, but it is feasible to aim for the least amount of harm possible.

NEXUS (binding together) Let's try to simplify the acronyms. The main goal should be to be prepared.

When the minimum standards cannot be reached, we need to continue to advocate for the intent to do so.

It is important to work together rather than fight each other. Focus on empathy, respect, pooling, sharing, and partnering.

Irwin Joy (Journalist)

Irwin Did a presentation on decolonization in the BH sector.

Signs of mistrust down the system, as well as the government's mistrust of organizations

Crisis of decolonization where trust is eroded entirely. The humanitarian sector needs to keep its promises of localization, which will help repair some of that trust.

Marina Skuric-Prodanovic (OCHA)

Marina was recently deployed for the Gaza response. There are moral choices that need to be made.

Everyone should read the [Independent review of the humanitarian response to internal displacement](#).

We need to emphasize work in a multi-sectoral environment and to define what area-based coordination will mean.

What is needed by OCHA:

- Better engagement on how clusters are engaged
- Better collaboration
- Clearer on processes

ENGAGE – DISCUSS - CHALLENGE

Pigeonhole responses

- 1) We should NOT drop neutrality. It is an organizational tool to allow access. Impartiality is about equitable distribution. (William Anderson)

- 2) We want to prioritize sustainable solutions. Minimal standards do not provide protection. Environmental consideration should become the new normal, but there is great struggle due to the limitation of resources. (Sendralahatra Rakotondradalo)

3 Priority Recommendations or 3 Key takeaway

- 1) It is imperative to continue intent and advocacy to achieve the minimum standard for all people. However, even the minimum is not enough, and we should strive to provide more
- 2) The main goal should be to aim for preparedness to mitigate the outcomes
- 3) It is important to remember that the local community is the primary response. Enabling them to be able to support themselves is necessary to be self-sufficient. (localization)