



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The German Federal Foreign Office, the Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA), Berlin, and the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP), London, have the pleasure to invite you to the symposium

Humanitarian Assistance in a Changing World – Global Developments and the Challenge of Humanitarian Access

Thursday, 4 April 2019, 14:30 – 18:00
German Federal Foreign Office, Europasaal.

Worldwide, the number of people affected by conflicts, natural disasters and epidemics is on the rise. The increasing length and depth of humanitarian crises have stretched the capacity of humanitarian actors and the international humanitarian system to respond effectively and the gap between needs and the resources available to meet those needs remains wide. The safety of humanitarian staff, and the ability of humanitarian agencies to access affected people in conflict situations, continues to be a cause for grave concern.

At the same time, the international humanitarian system is in transition and has developed further in the last years. Initiatives such as the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain were set up to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance; topics such as innovation and localization in humanitarian assistance are becoming increasingly important.

ALNAP's latest State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) report covers the period 2015-2017, a period during which there has been a shift in the geo-political landscape away from multilateralism and a rules-based order. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the performance of the global humanitarian system and includes a description of the problems around access and the protection of vulnerable people.

The current situation presents great challenges for humanitarian assistance. The German Federal Foreign Office has reviewed its strategy on humanitarian assistance abroad and is publishing a new version for the years 2019 – 2023. The new strategy explains, how and in which focal areas the German Federal Foreign Office will work within the international humanitarian system as one of its most important actors.

During this symposium, the latest SOHS report and the new strategy of the German Federal Foreign Office on humanitarian assistance abroad will be presented. Both documents and current challenges for humanitarian assistance – with a focus on the topic of humanitarian access – will be debated in high-level panel discussions.

The agenda and logistical information can be found below. It is possible to attend only one of the events. Please register through S08-S@diplo.de by **29 March 2019**. In your registration, please mention, if you would like to attend one or both of the events, and your name, organization and email address. We look forward to welcoming you to the symposium!



Humanitarian Assistance in a Changing World – Global Developments and the Challenge of Humanitarian Access

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13:30 Doors open

Part I: Presentation and Discussion of the State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) Report 2018

14:30	Welcome by Federal Foreign Office and CHA
14:40	Presentation of the SOHS report 2018 by John Mitchell, Director, ALNAP
14:55	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Knox Clarke, Head of Research and SOHS Lead Author, ALNAP• Kathy Relleen Evans, Hard to Reach (H2R) - Ambition Coordinator, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)• Dr. Thomas Zahneisen, Director for Humanitarian Assistance, Federal Foreign Office Facilitation: Ralf Südhoff, Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA)
15:40	Q&A

This part of the event will take place in English with simultaneous translation into German.

16:00 Coffee break

Part II: Launch of the Federal Foreign Office Strategy for Humanitarian Assistance Abroad

16:30	Presentation of the new strategy by Dr. Bärbel Kofler, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, Federal Foreign Office; Member of German Parliament
16:50	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. h. c. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel, President, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Bread for the World• Dr. Bärbel Kofler, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid, Federal Foreign Office; Member of German Parliament• Dominik Stillhart, Director of Operations, International Committee of the Red Cross Facilitation: Prof. Dr. Pierre Thielbörger, Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV), Ruhr University Bochum
17:40	Q&A

This part of the event will take place in German with simultaneous translation into English.

18:00 Reception

Practical information:

Please arrive at the Federal Foreign Office at least 15 minutes before the start of the event as the security checks may take some time. Admission to the conference area will proceed via the conference entrance at Unterwasserstraße 10, 10117 Berlin, and is only possible with a valid photo ID. If you require barrier-free access to the venue, please let us now in your registration. There is no public parking available near the premises of the Federal Foreign Office. Please also keep in mind that there is no space available to store your baggage.

