



WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the World Humanitarian Summit?

The WHS will bring people and groups together to address future humanitarian challenges related to natural hazards and conflicts. The WHS events will aim to develop stronger partnerships and seek innovative solutions to persistent and new challenges.

When and where will events be held?

The summit will be held in May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. In the lead up to the summit, eight key regional consultations will be held around the world to gather views about how we can jointly address future needs. In addition, consultations will occur on the website beginning in May 2014.

The following is an overview of the upcoming regional consultations:

- West and Central Africa - June 2014
- North and Southeast Asia - July 2014
- South and East Africa – 3rd Quarter 2014*
- Eastern Europe, Western Europe and Others Group - 1st Quarter 2015*
- Latin America and the Caribbean - March 2015*
- Pacific Islands - 2nd Quarter 2015*
- South and Central Asia - 2nd Quarter 2015*
- Middle East and North Africa - 3rd Quarter 2015*
- Global Consultation - 4th Quarter 2015*

* timeframe and location to be confirmed

Who will participate?

- Community groups (including people who have been affected by disasters and conflicts and their local organizations)
- National governments and regional organizations (including affected countries and donors, and emerging and interested partners)
- Humanitarian and development organizations (including NGOs, UN agencies, charities, and foundations)
- Other humanitarian actors such as businesses, militaries, academic institutions, and faith-based organizations.

What issues will be discussed?

Participants of the regional and online consultations will prioritize the relevant issues in their respective regions. Four themes will serve as broad categories to guide the conversations:

1. Humanitarian effectiveness
2. Reducing vulnerability and managing risk
3. Transformation through innovation
4. Serving the needs of people in conflict

Who is organizing this?

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asked the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to coordinate the WHS. OCHA has worked closely with partners and key stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, UN agencies, community groups, businesses, academic institutions, and others, on the preparations, and will continue to do so throughout the process.

Why now?

Currently, the global community faces many challenges such as climate change, population growth, urbanization, and water shortages. At the same time, there have global economic shifts, new actors engaged in humanitarian action, and tremendous improvements in technology. Given these challenges and opportunities, we need to improve how we respond to disasters and conflicts

How will it work?

- Starting in mid-2014, regional, online and technical consultations will be held around the world. Thematic teams of 8-10 experts will be established to develop each theme and support online, technical and regional consultations.
- The consultations will make use of ongoing events in countries and regions to develop discussions on each theme. This will help to bring together initiatives already underway in the humanitarian community. The World Humanitarian Summit team will identify ways to link the efforts.
- Consultations will engage a broad range of partners, including affected people, humanitarian actors, technical experts and the public through the WHS web platform.
- Findings from the web platform will be reviewed at the regional meetings.
- The key findings from both the regional and online consultations will be included in the final report of the Secretary-General that will set the summit agenda and influence the future of global humanitarian action.

How can governments, UN agencies, NGOs, affected communities and the private sector get involved?

- OCHA has sought feedback on the themes and concept from many organizations.
- Partners can contribute to an inclusive preparatory process by:
 - » Contributing to discussions on the web platform (to be launched in May).
 - » Raise awareness about the summit and encourage participation in our online consultations, especially among civil society and affected communities. .
 - » Partnering with governments to co-host regional and other consultations. Co-hosts and sponsors are needed to firm up the calendar of regional consultations.
 - » Contributing experts and inputs to the work of the thematic teams.
 - » Sharing key findings from key events taking place at the global, regional or national level with the WHS secretariat
 - » Supporting the WHS through financial contributions to ensure the active participation of affected communities that are often left out of discussions like these.

How and when can the public be involved?

- The public will be invited to share opinions and ideas through the WHS website in the discussion forums as of May 2014. News and other information will be regularly posted on the website and emailed on a monthly basis to those who have signed up on our email list
- Engage in social media discussions related to the WHS starting in April

How will the regional consultation work?

Regional Steering Groups (RSG) are being formed for each region. The RSGs will guide the conceptual and logistical planning for each regional consultation. The RSG will consist of 12 members (representing their country/organization, but serving in an individual capacity) who will set the agenda, determine criteria for the selection of participants, identify key issues of relevance in the region under each of the four summit themes, and endorse the outcome of the regional consultation. In addition to ensuring geographic, organizational and gender diversity, RSG members will be chosen to ensure an appropriate mix of skills and backgrounds among the members.