

1<sup>st</sup> Transatlantic Dialogue on Humanitarian Action

**Learning from the field:**  
Fostering effective transatlantic  
action on disaster relief and  
preparedness

***Dialogue Agenda***



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*1<sup>st</sup> Transatlantic Dialogue on Humanitarian Action*

## **Learning from the field: Fostering effective transatlantic action on disaster relief and preparedness**

### **Draft Agenda**

Date: June 2-3, 2008

Location: Harnack-Haus, Max-Planck-Society, Berlin-Dahlem

This first Transatlantic Dialogue on Humanitarian Action is an integral component of the transatlantic research and dialogue program entitled “Raising the Bar: Enhancing transatlantic governance of disaster relief and preparedness,” jointly led by the Global Public Policy Institute and the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University.

The “Raising the Bar”-Program is designed to enhance transatlantic coherence and cooperation in humanitarian action. Over 18 months, a project team based on a unique network of transatlantic organizations will conduct field-based empirical research. In order to foster joint transatlantic action “Raising the Bar” also contains a multi-stakeholder dialogue component. The core of this component is a conference series, the Transatlantic Dialogues in Humanitarian Action. Bringing together approximately 30 to 40 experts, practitioners and EU and US policymakers from all sectors, the dialogue sessions seek to provide feedback to the ongoing research program; facilitate networking among participants; and foster joint transatlantic action.

This upcoming conference will be the first dialogue session of the “Raising the Bar”-Program. We hope to use this occasion to launch the program, present its key goals and work program components, and in particular discuss and receive feedback on preliminary research results. Panel discussions and working groups during the conference will be structured along the four key research themes that are being pursued as part of the “Raising the Bar”-Program: Linking Relief, Rehabilitation, and Development (LRRD); Improving Humanitarian Performance through Learning; Business Engagement in Humanitarian Action; and Civil-Military Relations in Disaster Response.

### **The project is generously supported by**



**European  
Commission**

### **Additional financial support for the program is provided by**



**Federal Ministry  
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and Development**

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**JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>**

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**12:00pm**     **BUFFET - LUNCH**

**01:00 pm**     **WELCOME**

(Meitner-Saal)

- Julia Steets, Project Manager, GPPI
- Esther Brimmer, Deputy Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

**1.15pm**     **INTRODUCTORY KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

(Meitner-Saal)

The changing landscape of humanitarian relief: Setting the agenda

Manuel Bessler, Deputy Director of Policy Development and Studies Branch,  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Ambassador Busso von Alvensleben, Commissioner for Global Issues, Federal  
Foreign Office, Germany

Q&A

**2.15pm**     **PANEL DISCUSSION I**

(Meitner-Saal)

**Transatlantic approaches to disaster preparedness and relief: setting the stage**

Goals of this session: Introduce the "Raising the Bar"-Project; provide and discuss different perspectives on the current state of transatlantic cooperation in disaster relief and preparedness, the actual and potential impact of transatlantic cooperation on humanitarian aid, major differences and commonalities in transatlantic approaches to disaster relief and preparedness and realistic opportunities for future cooperation.

Introductory comments: Jan Martin Witte, Associate Director, GPPI

Panel members:

- Anne C. Richard, Vice President, Government Relations & Advocacy, International Rescue Committee
- James Darcy, Director of Programmes, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute
- Per Byman, Head of Division for Humanitarian Assistance, SIDA

Q & A

**3:45 pm**     **COFFEE BREAK**

(Winter Garden)

4:15 pm

## **WORKING GROUPS SESSION I**

Goals of this working group session: In this working group session, the individual study groups will be introduced. Study group leaders will briefly introduce the study group topic, additional resource persons will comment, provide EU and US perspectives and kick off the discussion. Working groups should provide feedback on study group setup, key hypotheses as well as preliminary outcomes and recommendations generated so far.

### **Working Group I: Linking relief, rehabilitation, and development**

(Leibniz-library)

Both the EU and the US have declared LRRD as an essential concept guiding their disaster response. However, the implementation of LRRD remains a challenge. Building on four case studies, the LRRD study group compares the transatlantic partners' respective approaches to implementing LRRD and generates lessons learned and best practices. During this working group, the setup of the study group as well as preliminary findings will be discussed.

Quick introduction: Martin Büttner, Research Associate, GPPi

Resource persons:

- Tasneem Mowjee, Senior Researcher, Development Initiatives
- Sandro Cerrato, Policy Officer, Food Aid and Disaster Preparedness, ECHO, European Commission

### **Working Group II: Improving humanitarian performance through the implementation of lessons learned**

(Conference Room)

The humanitarian community engages systematically in the collection of lessons learned, but there remains an important gap between agreed upon standards and actual practice. The study group on learning seeks to tackle the disconnect between knowledge and its use and hopes to promote mutual learning between the US and the EU on how donors can better adjust their programs and policies to existing lessons learned. During this working group, the setup of the study group as well as preliminary findings will be discussed.

Quick introduction: Andrea Binder, Research Associate, GPPi

Resource persons:

- Joanna Czaplicka, Evaluations Officer, DG ECHO, European Commission
- Riccardo Polastro, Head of Evaluation, DARA International

### **Working Group III: Business engagement in humanitarian action**

(Vogt-Saal)

In recent years, the role of business in humanitarian action has become a prominent topic in policy debates. Europeans and Americans have developed different approaches to engaging with the private sector in the humanitarian arena. This study group compares the different modes and evaluates their strengths and weaknesses. During this working group, the setup of the study group as well as preliminary findings will be discussed.

Quick introduction: Kelly Johnson, Research Associate, GPPI

Resource persons:

- Susanne Meier, Director of Partnerships, Deutsche Post World Net

#### **Working Group IV: Civil-military relations in disaster response**

(Mozart Room)

Whether in the context of natural disasters or complex emergencies, civil and military actors are increasingly working together. During this working group, the setup of the study group as well as preliminary findings will be discussed.

Quick introduction: Jean-Luc Marret, Senior Fellow, CTR

Resource persons:

- Katrin Radtke, Policy Officer Development Policy and Humanitarian Assistance, Welthungerhilfe
- Dr. Fredrik Byander, Scientific Coordinator, CRISMART

#### **5:45 pm REPORTING BACK TO THE PLENARY**

(Meitner-Saal)

#### **6:30 pm BREAK**

#### **7:30 pm DINNER**

(Restaurant)

#### **9:00 pm NIGHT CAP**

(Restaurant)

Goal: Food for thought for the night and next day.

Speaker: Nick Haan, Executive Director T-Ana International, to speak on a common classification system for humanitarian situation analysis

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### **JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>**

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#### **9:00 am PANEL DISCUSSION II**

(Meitner-Saal)

**Key emerging trends for humanitarian disaster preparedness and response: Field and operational perspectives**

Goals of this session: This session will discuss the core challenges of humanitarian action from a field perspective and provide an introduction to the practical responses and strategies developed by different actors in the humanitarian field.

Introductory keynote speaker: Ross Mountain, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Mission in the DR Congo

Panel members:

Maike Tribbels, Policy Planning Officer, Private Office of the Secretary-General, NATO

Ursula Müller, Head of Division, Humanitarian Task Force and Mine Action, Federal Foreign Office Germany

Roy Williams, President, Center for Humanitarian Cooperation

**10:30 am COFFEE BREAK**

(Winter Garden)

**11:00 am WORKING GROUPS SESSION II**

Goals of this session: This working group session will again be structured around the four key study group themes. However, they will be focused on specific country cases and be introduced primarily by field-based perspectives. The idea is to complement the introductory working group sessions from day 1 of the conference with some hands-on discussion about actual experiences and lessons learned.

**Working Group I: Linking relief, rehabilitation, and development: Experiences from the field**

(Leibniz-library)

Resource persons:

- Hugh Goyder, Associate, INTRAC
- François Grunewald, Director, Groupe URD

**Working Group II: Improving humanitarian performance through the implementation of lessons learned: Experiences from the field**

(Conference Room)

Resource persons:

- Jenty Kirsch-Wood, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Policy Development, UNOCHA

**Working Group III: Business engagement in humanitarian action: Experiences from the field**

(Vogt-Saal)

Resource persons:

- Ulrich Hess, Chief of Business Risk Planning, World Food Programme

**Working Group IV: Civil-military relations in disaster response:  
Experiences from the field**

(Mozart Room)

Resource persons:

- Laurent Verneuil, AGREATIV Professor of Universities, the Limousin Institute of Technology ENSOSP
- Johanna Mendelson-Forman, Senior Associate, CSIS

**12:30 pm**

**LUNCH**

(Restaurant)

**2:00 pm**

**PANEL DISCUSSION III**

(Meitner-Saal)

**Enhancing coherence and cooperation in transatlantic governance of  
disaster relief and preparedness: Next steps**

Goals of this session: Discuss the most important steps ahead for the transatlantic partners and other humanitarian actors in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of disaster relief and preparedness.

Introductory keynote speaker: Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, Head of Humanitarian Aid Committee, German Parliament

Prof. Dr. Wolf-Dieter Eberwein, Social Science Research Centre, Berlin

Gerhard Schmalbruch, Managing Secretary, Euronaid

Francois Grunewald, Director, URD

**3:30 pm**

**FAREWELL AND NEXT STEPS**

(Meitner-Saal)

Goals of this session: This last session provides the RTB team with the opportunity to discuss how the project will proceed and what lessons will be taken on board as a result of the dialogue. Participants find out and discuss how they can remain involved and provide further input to the project.