



# HOW EFFECTIVE IS HUMANITARIAN ACTION?

## 3-PART HUMANITARIAN HARDTALK SERIES

In humanitarian crises, such as Syria and the Sahel, the needs of affected populations far outweigh available resources and capacity to respond. Therefore, it is not surprising that the effectiveness of aid is one of the most important challenges for the humanitarian sector. However, the idea of what effectiveness actually means is subject to debate. Defining, measuring and improving humanitarian effectiveness has been proposed as one of the main themes for the World Humanitarian Summit announced by the UN system for early 2016.

- How effective is humanitarian action in contexts where access and funds are limited?
  - What does effectiveness actually mean given these limitations?

To mark its 25th anniversary, AECID celebrates its renewed commitment to improve humanitarian action. AECID, in collaboration with DARA, invites you to a 3-part *Humanitarian Hardtalk* series where leaders from three key humanitarian organisations discuss their views on humanitarian aid effectiveness.



**15 OCTOBER**  
17:00-18:30

**VALERIE AMOS**

UN Under-Secretary General  
Emergency Relief Coordinator

### GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

- What limits humanitarian access to affected populations in situations of armed conflict?
- How does Valerie Amos see her role in this regard?
- Where does the balance lie in focusing on needs versus feasibility?



**5 NOVEMBER**  
16:00-18:00

**PETER MAURER**

President,  
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

### PRESENCE, COVERAGE & ACCESS

- Does expanding the humanitarian community impact the ability to respond to needs?
- To what extent does the coordination of an increasingly diverse humanitarian sector guarantee access to affected populations?



**14 NOVEMBER**  
16:00-18:00

**CLAUS SØRENSEN**

Director General,  
Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission (ECHO)

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- While upward accountability has been receiving more attention, what about being accountable to the people affected by humanitarian crises?
  - What can be done to improve this imbalance? To what point is accountability more of a hindrance to humanitarian effectiveness rather than a guarantee?

### Series presenter

**Gonzalo Robles Orozco**, AECID Director / Secretary General of the International Development Cooperation, Spain

### Series moderator

**Ed Schenkenberg**, DARA Chief Executive

### VENUE (for all events):

Salón V Centenario, AECID Main Office, Avenida de Reyes Católicos 4, 28040 ([map](#))

Invitees are advised to arrive half an hour early

The events will take place in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish

**RSVP: Register here for the series**

# HOW EFFECTIVE IS HUMANITARIAN ACTION?

3-PART HUMANITARIAN HARD-TALK SERIES

## 15 OCTOBER: GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES

The humanitarian sector is faced with growing needs in increasing complex environments. The consequences of conflict, disaster and compound crises have left more and more people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. UN appeals in 2013 requested \$12.9 billion to support 73 million people in 24 countries. At mid-year, less than half of the requested amount had been disbursed. How can humanitarian response be effective in increasingly demanding contexts with insufficient resources?

## 5 NOVEMBER: PRESENCE, COVERAGE AND ACCESS

The humanitarian community has grown exponentially in the last two decades. In addition to UN agencies, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, there are currently thousands of NGOs carrying out humanitarian work. This growing number of organisations should indicate a greater ability of the humanitarian sector to ensure presence in various crises and meet the needs of and have access to affected populations, but there hasn't been positive results. In fact, in situations of armed conflict with humanitarian restrictions, only a handful of organisations, such as the ICRC and MSF, have access to affected populations in the most remote areas. Responding to the needs of people in places that are more difficult to access clearly has financial implications for operations, but their needs are just as urgent, and deserving of assistance and protection. Strong adherence to humanitarian principles is essential to do so.

## 14 NOVEMBER: ACCOUNTABILITY

The debate has increased with recent cutbacks in the budgets of some of the largest traditional government donors. Donors are under greater public scrutiny to demonstrate results from the money invested in foreign aid, pressure which is also passed on to the humanitarian organisations on the ground. As a result, many organisations report spending more and more time on the financial and administrative requirements of their donors, leaving fewer resources for humanitarian programming. Does this call for greater accountability improve or take away from humanitarian effectiveness? While upward accountability has been receiving more attention, what about being accountable to the people affected by humanitarian crises?

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## ABOUT AECID

AECID is the governing body for Spanish policy on international development cooperation, and its fundamental aim is to promote, manage and implement public policies for international development cooperation, with particular emphasis on reducing poverty and achieving sustainable human development in developing countries, as defined in each four-yearly AECID Master Plan. Combating poverty is the ultimate goal of Spanish policy for international development cooperation, as part of Spain's overall foreign policy, and AECID's actions are based on the belief that interdependence and solidarity are essential elements of international society. For more information: [www.aecid.es](http://www.aecid.es)

## ABOUT DARA

DARA is an independent non-profit organisation committed to improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action for vulnerable populations affected by armed conflict and natural disasters. Through research and evaluations, we encourage organisations to reflect on the impact of their work and help them take evidence-based decisions at the policy, strategy and programming levels, and in critical moments of delivering assistance. DARA actively promotes humanitarian principles, learning and accountability and supports innovative approaches. For more information: [www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org)

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### BIOGRAPHY OF VALERIE AMOS

On 9 July 2010, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of **Valerie Amos**, a national of the United Kingdom, as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

She succeeds John Holmes, to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his dedicated service to the Organization and commitment to alleviating the conditions of the many peoples affected by emergency situations.

Ms. Amos brings extensive background and experience to the position, coupled with well-honed leadership skills and an ability to forge consensus, coordinate the delivery of results and work with diverse stakeholders. She was most recently the United Kingdom's High Commissioner to Australia.

She has more than 25 years of experience and spent the last decade in various high-level positions, including as Cabinet minister with responsibility for international development, which encompassed arrangements for the Department for International Development budget and responsibility for its response to crises around the world.

From 2007 to 2009, Ms. Amos was Chair of the Royal African Society and a Fulbright Commissioner. Between 2003 and 2007, she served as Cabinet minister, Leader of the House of Lords and Secretary of State for International Development. In the latter role, she was called upon to participate in discussions and negotiations to tackle conflicts and post-conflict situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Liberia and other parts of the world. From 2001 to 2003, she served as Africa Minister.

Ms. Amos is expected to bring strategic direction to her efforts as Emergency Relief Coordinator, framed by her ability to be a strong communicator and advocate for the needs of stakeholders, and to ensure commitment to the mandate of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Born in 1954, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and a Master of Arts in cultural studies.

Source: [http://www.un.org/sg/management/senstaff\\_details.asp?smgID=145](http://www.un.org/sg/management/senstaff_details.asp?smgID=145)

### GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES



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## BIOGRAPHY OF PETER MAURER

Peter Maurer was born in Thun, Switzerland, in 1956. He studied history and international law in Bern, where he was awarded a doctorate. In 1987 he entered the Swiss diplomatic service, where he held various positions in Bern and Pretoria before being transferred to New York in 1996 as deputy permanent observer at the Swiss mission to the United Nations. In 2000 he was appointed ambassador and head of the human security division in the political directorate of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern.

In 2004 Mr Maurer was appointed ambassador and permanent representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. In this position, he worked to integrate Switzerland, which had only recently joined the United Nations, into multilateral networks. In June 2009, the UN General Assembly elected Mr Maurer chairman of the Fifth Committee, in charge of administrative and budgetary affairs. In addition, he was elected chairman of the Burundi configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. In January 2010 Mr Maurer was appointed secretary of State for foreign affairs in Bern and took over the reins of the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, with its five directorates and some 150 Swiss diplomatic missions around the world. He succeeded Jakob Kellenberger as ICRC president on 1 July 2012.

Source: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/who-we-are/structure/president-vice-presidents-icrc.htm>

## PRESENCE, COVERAGE & ACCESS



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### BIOGRAPHY OF CLAUS SØRENSEN

Director General of DG ECHO, European Commission

Nationality: Danish

Languages: French, English, German

- Master of Economic Science (University of Aarhus)
- Lecturer at the Aarhus School of Architecture (1975-77)
- Lecturer at the University of Copenhagen (1978-81)
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen: International monetary questions, CAP (1977-81)
- First Secretary at the Danish Delegation to OECD, Paris: Chairman of the W.P. of the Trade Committee, Representative to the Economic and Development Review Committee, UNCTAD V & VI (Belgrade, Geneva, New York) (1981-84)
- Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen: International trade and finance (1985-87)
- Counsellor at the Danish Permanent Representation, Brussels (1988-89)
- Member of Commissioner Henning Christophersen's Cabinet: Maastricht Treaty, Financial Institutions, International Economic Affairs, Environment, Internal Market, Social & Labour Market Policy (1990-94)
- Member of Commissioner Anita Gradin's Cabinet: Fight against fraud, organised crime, corruption, IGC-96, Foreign Relations, Enlargement, Social & Labour Market Policy, Agriculture, Fisheries (1995-99)
- Head of Unit of International affairs, trade and environment, DG Environment, European Commission (1999)
- Head of Cabinet, Commissioner Nielson's Cabinet: Development, ECHO (1999-2003)
- Director, DG Environment, Directorate E – International Affairs (2003-2004)
- Head of Cabinet, Commissioner Fischer Boel's Cabinet: Agriculture and Rural Development (2004-15.1.2006)
- Director-General DG Communication (16.1.2006- 30.06.2011)
- Director-General DG Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (1.07.2011 - present)

Source: ECHO

### ACCOUNTABILITY

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