

INVITATION

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CENTRAL
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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Regional Office for Europe and the Center for Policy Studies, Central European University (CEU CPS), has the pleasure to invite you to a roundtable discussion on the role of local actors based on the IFRC produced

World Disasters Report, 2015

‘Focus on local actors, the key to humanitarian effectiveness’



with

Prof. Mo Hamza, Chief Editor of the World Disasters Report 2015;
Mr. David Fisher, Co-author of WDR and Coordinator, Disaster Law Programme, IFRC;
Dr. Albert Royaards, President of the Smiling Hospital Foundation;
Mr. Lyubomir Karakanovski, Senior Expert on Disaster Management, Bulgarian Red Cross

under the title:

Local Actors and Humanitarian Action

moderated by Prof. Andrew Cartwright of the Center for Policy Studies,
Central European University.

The event will be held on

11:00 – 13:00, Thursday, 11 February, 2016

(including refreshments)

at the CEU Auditorium, Faculty Tower on Nádor street 9.

Kindly RSVP to Ms Margit Tauzer at margit.tauzer@ifrc.org
or by phone +36 1 888 45 17, by Thursday 4 February, 2016

The roundtable will be held in English.
Copies of the WDR will be available.

Local Actors at the Centre of Effective Humanitarian Action

World Disaster Report 2015

Central European University, 11 February 2016

Introduction

The World Disasters Report – launched by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – is an annual independent publication commissioned by the IFRC, contributing evidence-based research on the challenges, trends and innovations in disaster risk reduction and crisis management. The report is an important body of research, which builds on discussions at the 2015 UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. It provided an important substance contribution to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's International Conference in late 2015, as well as making a direct contribution to this year's World Humanitarian Summit where the localization of aid is one of the key thematic areas of focus.

Background

The World Disaster Report 2015 examines in seven chapters the complex and challenging relationship between local and international humanitarian actors responding to crises, presenting the case for a shift towards the “localization” of aid and a more equal partnerships between international and local actors. The IFRC commissioned a global study to review learning from decades of evolving capacity development theory and practice, as one of the determining factors that has defined a significant part of the local-international engagement.

The report also highlights the crucial role played by the local responders in the effectiveness of humanitarian action, arguing that the permanent presence of the actors on the ground and their thorough understanding of the local context bring a unique perspective that could significantly benefit the entire humanitarian effort. The role of the local actors is also linked to the global risk reduction agenda, by connecting humanitarian aid to building the resilience and the preparedness of people, institutions and places affected by hazards. Moreover, the report addresses the potential held by partnerships with the local responders to readdress some of the perennial challenges of humanitarian action, related to shrinking access, fragmentation and incoherency in operations, and the gaps between response, recovery and development.

The report highlights, however, that despite their crucial role local organizations often fail to attract the funding and the support they need. One of the findings of the report, for example, was that of the total funding given to international, regional, national and local NGOs over 2010 and 2014, only 1.6 per cent of these funds were channeled directly to what were qualified as national and local NGOs.

In a number of states subject to reoccurring natural disasters there is a significant shift from reliance on external support to building up the local disaster law, policy, response capacity, community preparedness and resilience. While calling for partnerships with local actors and for more efficient financing flows, Elhadj As Sy, IFRC Secretary General, addresses the need to share responsibilities evenly when preparing or responding to large-scale disasters:

“International partners still have a critical role to play, in the provision of specialized resources and expertise, and in surging capacity when local resources are overstretched. Such support should be brought with humility, trust and respect, and with a commitment to building local capacity.”

Earlier this year, the IFRC announced the [One Billion Coalition for Resilience](#) – a new partnership, which would help one billion people become more resilient in the face of shocks and hazards by 2025. This can only be achieved through partnership with, and greater support to local actors.