

# AHOPE



Newsletter / issue no. 4

April 2011



Renewed  
Humanitarian  
Leadership

## Letter from the President



In my view, humanitarian leadership includes taking risks with your organisation on behalf of the community. Leadership is not about the size of your organisation, its budget or structure. It is about how you can address the needs of the masses and strengthen the social bonds within the community itself.

There are many emerging humanitarian leaders, coming either from the North or South. In the North, growing ethnic groups are leading their small communities and contributing to the leadership of the larger community. In the South, in countries like Sudan, Yemen,

Indonesia, Sri Lanka there are people proving they are capable and effective in leading their communities towards a better future.

Leadership is not a members-only club, but about inclusivity, complementarity and partnerships. Our role here is to create a space for dialogue between them, as the wisest is the one that grows their organisation by allowing other organisations to grow with them.

We, The Humanitarian Forum, are creating a new, more diverse mosaic of humanitarian leadership that will include all of us.

This will take time, but as the saying goes: A journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step. Let us start together on the path of humanitarian partnerships!

President

### Inside this issue:

4-5

Libya

6-7

Yemen

8-9

Around the world

10-11

Indonesia

12-13

Sudan  
Somalia

14-15

Pakistan  
Istanbul  
Online matters

## Editorial

Over a year ago, an earthquake caused immense damage to Haiti. Our TV screens were full of images of devastation and of journalists complaining at the inadequate international assistance.

A similar story emerged a few months later after the floods that ravaged Pakistan.

**This means images often miss the work of the local NGOs and “non-traditional” humanitarian organisations that help those in need, or the NGOs that work behind the scenes or through local partners. Also, they do not show how communities cope, or how they are crucial to preparing for – and dealing with – disasters.**

In recent weeks, we have seen local communities in Tunisia come to the aid of those fleeing Libya. Local NGOs in both countries, as well as in Egypt, are rising to the challenge of an international crisis.

The Humanitarian Forum is helping to renew this global humanitarian leadership, linking organisations in the west, the east, the south and multilateral organisations. We want to improve the efficiency of aid by bridging the gaps within the humanitarian system through training, dialogue and cooperation. By advocating for a strong, inclusive humanitarian sector, we are enabling new humanitarian leaders to emerge.

In this issue of our newsletter, you can read more on our work for Libya, as well as updates from Yemen, Indonesia, Sudan, Somalia and Pakistan. Our website, [www.humanitarianforum.org](http://www.humanitarianforum.org), offers you even more information. We are very grateful for your continued support.



James Shaw — Hamilton

*James*

Director



Our Secretariat in London works behind the scenes to enable the creation of an environment conducive to humanitarian partnerships. Find out more about us on our website: [www.humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/secretariat.html](http://www.humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/secretariat.html)

## Libya: “Coordination saves lives”

On 24th March, 80 participants from 42 organisations and 9 countries joined us in Cairo to discuss humanitarian needs in different parts of Libya and the neighbouring countries as a result of the unrest. This followed from a phone conference with key humanitarian actors held on 16th March. Shahira Maarouf reports.

Participants came from the multilateral system, western international NGOs, Islamic INGOs and local Egyptian and Libyan NGOs.

The conference focused on giving every actor the up to date situation, while the participants shared wide experiences, created new connections and discussed in detail how to meet medical needs and improve the information sharing process.

The meeting showed the need for joint leadership, with Arab organisations complementing existing international coordination.

In her opening remarks, Her Excellency Dr. Sima Bahous, the League of Arab States’ Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs said: **“We must boost efforts to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to countries hit by unrest”**.

Dr. Bahous added: “This good participation reflects a strong desire to react fast to the problems in the region”.

**A humanitarian briefing by OCHA’s Khalid Khalifa centred on the motto “Coordination saves lives” and covered aspects such as refugee evacuation and the status of the Regional Flash Appeal.**

Salim-Abdul Rahman Al Nuaimi, Secretary General of Human Appeal International, believed that the event went a long way in working to pool the international efforts to alleviate humanitarian suffering of the Libyan people.

Dr. Hany El-Banna, president of The Humanitarian Forum, added: **“I believe local communities and the NGO sector are important. They both face many chal-**



***“The discussions and the information exchanged during the meeting were instructive and will be taken into account in our work in favour of the vulnerable people in Libya.”***

Ameur Zemmali, ICRC

lenges and we must invest in a strong, broad NGO sector to help people cope with disaster and unrest, such as **the one we’re facing in Libya”**.



The participants agreed that communication is vital. They agreed to share information and to meet again. Several new partnerships were created for aid delivery and information gathering/sharing.

### MENA Civil Society

The participants also discussed humanitarian needs in Yemen and the need to work with local communities and NGOs there and in the Middle East/ North Africa region.

Networks, such as The Humanitarian Forum and its partners, represent an added value for local civil society in the MENA region due to the potential for partnerships with various stakeholders such as NGOs, trade unions, different social groups etc. A strong civil society represented by its organisations can actively participate in the global decision-making.

## Journeys through Libya – a humanitarian perspective

Dr. Hany El-Banna visited Libya and its neighbouring countries twice in two months, gaining a unique insight of the situation on the ground. He tells us some of his experiences on the road, as well as how the local communities are coping.

When we arrived at the border in Salloum, an immigration officer told me: **“We allowed more than 200,000 people afraid for their lives to enter Egypt”**. Still, I saw that thousands upon thousands of Bangladeshi, Filipino, Somali and others were sleeping on concrete floors in immigration halls and even on the roads. Having spoken to a few of them, I found out they were expatriate workers, all trying to get to their homes. The temperature outside was 0 degrees centigrade.



The migrant workers fleeing the unrest were stuck at the border, with some of them sleeping on the ground.

I had travelled several thousand miles by land and several other thousand by plane, however all fatigue disappeared when I saw the sheer kindness shown by the Tunisians for the refugees at the border. It felt like a feast of giving, with people from nearby villages and towns joining in to give their livelihoods and dignity back to the migrant workers.

Tunisia is a developing country, which has had its fair share of unrest in the recent months, but I was overjoyed at the scale of giving from its people, who rushed to help.



Dr. Hany at the Tunisian border with Libya, discussing the humanitarian needs of the refugees with Minister Andrew Mitchell (DFID).

I started my second 3,500km journey after a very successful humanitarian coordination event organised by The Humanitarian Forum and the League of Arab States in Cairo (see page 4).

We have already identified a huge gap to build the capacity of the local civil society organisations. We aim to create a stronger mechanism of networking, cooperation and coordination amongst the local organisations and governmental departments.

On my trip, I met up with many governmental organisations as well as international NGOs and local community based organisations and emerging organisations from Western Libya. I discussed with other humanitarian workers what comes next.

We all discovered that there is no A-Z solution; it needs to be a coordination approach between humanitarian organisations.



The local civil society organisations are ready to build a stronger sector.

## Yemen — Empowering Civil Society

Yemen is a country challenged by poverty, declining resources, rapid population growth, natural disasters and conflict. Political, tribal and cultural divisions add to the complexity of its context in addressing the issue of poverty. Humanitarian Forum Yemen takes a leading role in empowering civil society via training workshops. Ahmad al Sharaji, our Yemen Country Director, tells us more about Yemen.

**Despite Yemeni civil society’s potential, the sector is composed of a wide range of disconnected organisations, with various affiliations.**

According to an Islamic Relief needs assessment on the Civil Society Sector, the main training needs for NGOs can be met via workshops in: strategic planning, project proposal development, budgeting, communications and networking, coordination and partnership building.

Humanitarian Forum Yemen contributes to improving the operational and institutional capacity of Yemeni NGOs by providing training workshops which help participants gain skills in strategic planning project cycle management, gender mainstreaming, basic humanitarian principles, financial management and conflict resolution.

So far, our workshops have benefitted more than 200 members of staff from 43 local CSOs (see page 5 for examples).



The HFY Secretariat works with both local and international organisations to meet the needs of communities within Yemen’s 21 governorates.

### A HOPE?

**Following the “Ramadan basket” campaign in August 2010**, when its members pooled together their resources to offer the needy baskets full of commodities, such as sugar, flour, vegetables etc., Humanitarian Forum Yemen continued to support local civil society and its organisations.

Since the last issue of our newsletter, Noha Yehya Al-Eryani (photo left) joined our Humanitarian Forum Yemen Secretariat as Programme Officer.

For the short-term future, you can expect a wider web presence for Humanitarian Forum Yemen, with a brand new website and Facebook page being developed.

*The Yemeni Women’s Union (YWU) is the oldest women’s organisation in the country. It*



plays a vital role in empowering women and aims at attaining rights and legitimacy for women, gender equity and advocacy. Its projects include microcredit schemes, basic healthcare services and skill training for women.

Website: [yemeniwomen.org/](http://yemeniwomen.org/)



Humanitarian Forum Yemen counts among its members **two women’s organisations:**

*The Organisation of Women Development (WD) works towards helping women take active roles in development, and creating income-generating projects for poor families. “Without Despair” targets lone women who receive training for handi-crafts and life skills.*

Access a list of all Humanitarian Forum Yemen members on our website: [www.humanitarianforum.org](http://www.humanitarianforum.org)



## Our workshops in Yemen— added value

From North to South and from West to East, Humanitarian Forum Yemen holds a variety of workshops for the civil society. Below you can see a small sample of the places we work in and the activities there.

### Aden

With support from Islamic Relief Germany and The European Commission, Humanitarian Forum Yemen and Islamic Relief Yemen organised an operational engagement and fundraising workshop in Aden in October 2010.

53 senior staff members representing 49 organisations from 18 governorates took part in the workshop, gaining financial and planning skills.

The participants were trained on practical aspects of programme design and fundraising, while members of Northern and Southern Yemeni NGOs shared the experience of collaborating for the first time.

The group also discussed the economic and social context in which they operate and some identified potential partnerships with other organisations.



*"Yemeni trainers will contribute to improving the operations of local CSOs so they can effect change to the local communities they serve."*

Khalid Al-Mulad, IRY Country Director



### Hodeida

The series of workshops continued with a stop in Hodeida in December 2010.

The 40 participants formulated a problem statement and then identified a target group for designing a community based project.

They were trained on filling funding applications for Yemeni or foreign institutional donors and learned about criteria for grant making as well as essentials of fundraising.

The Islamic model of trust (Waqf) was also explained in detail.

### Train the trainer

18 carefully selected individual Yemeni participants gained skills in strategic planning, financial management and project cycle management.

These attendees came from five governorates namely

Sana'a, Aden, Ad-Dahlia, Hodeida and Hadramout and 7 of the 18 were women.

The trainees can then pass on the information learned to their own organisations, **thereby creating a "Train the Trainer" scheme to benefit local civil society.**



# Around the world with

**The Humanitarian Forum's worldwide operations span four continents. We organise workshops, attend conferences and aim to build trust around the globe, between Eastern and Western partners.**

**London:** July 2010: With the Muslim Charities Forum (MCF) we co-hosted a Counter-terrorism Policy and Development Workshop. Entitled "A 6/7 HOPE", the event took place on the eve of the July 7th London tube bombings and addressed the vital issue of how humanitarian work has been affected by the "war on terror".  
January 2011: In cooperation with MCF, we held a series of meetings for Somali NGOs based in the UK.



**Istanbul:** October 2010: We held "Building bridges in humanitarian thinking", a conference to develop understanding of the necessary underpinning, thinking and ideas for both Islamic and Western humanitarian actors that help to sustain effective humanitarian action.

**Kuwait:** November/December 2010: We attended the International Donors and Investors conference for East Sudan, where the governments of Kuwait and Sudan discussed collaborating on development projects for East Sudan.



**United States:** June 2010: We met with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) and was a panellist at the "Women Deliver" conference.  
September 2010 and February 2011: James debated new ways of looking at NGO accountability with the US State Department and others.

**Pakistan:** August 2010: In response to the floods in Pakistan, we helped to develop an agenda and brought donors together for the Emergency Meeting for the OIC's humanitarian partners, which raised just under 1 billion USD for the affected people. Dr. Hany visited Islamabad, Multan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and attended the OIC conference.  
December: Dr. Hany returned to Pakistan to assess the situation six months on.



**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:** March 2010: Trustee Adam Leach was joined by Dr. Hany and James for high-level meetings to discuss inter-faith partnerships.  
**Libya:** March 2011: We held a teleconference with key actors regarding the Libyan crisis, followed by a face-to-face meeting in Cairo together with League of Arab States.

**North/South Sudan:** December 2010: Dr. Hany and Tareq Bakri, our Partnership Manager, travelled to Khartoum and Juba to re-establish contact with stakeholders and look at the needs of the local civil society.

# The Humanitarian Forum 2010/11

Here are just some of our recent travels from 2010 and the beginning of 2011. For constant updates, browse our website.

**Balkans:** April 2010: Our "A HOPE for the Balkans" meeting took place in Skopje with 50 participants from the Balkans region and from our partners around the world.  
December: James was a panellist at an OSCE expert workshop for SE Europe on suppressing terrorist financing and countering extremism, talking about self-regulation and good governance capacity building of NGOs.



**Jordan:** March 2010: James Shaw-Hamilton and Shahira Maarouf, our Programme Manager, supported a working group of members as they worked on rooting the Humanitarian principles of the Red Cross NGO Code of Conduct in Islamic values. James also joined the steering committee of the MENA humanitarian sharing group, to help improve awareness for the civil society in the region.

**Lebanon:** January 2011: Dr. Hany attended the Regional Forum on Economic and Social Rights in Light of Global Crises in Beirut, event organised by the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND).

**Yemen:** October 2010: Humanitarian Forum Yemen (HFY) organised in partnership with Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY) an operational engagement and fundraising workshop in Aden.

December: HFY followed-up with another workshop in Hodeidah.

December 2010/ January 2011: In cooperation with IRY, HFY devised a series of "Train the trainer" workshops.



**Somalia:** March/May 2010: Dr. Hany worked with numerous Somali stakeholders on behalf of The Humanitarian Forum to improve humanitarian access.

**Indonesia:** Ongoing: Humanitarian Forum Indonesia (HFI) held Humanitarian Leadership training events for the local society organisations. HFI also working extensively on disaster risk reduction in West Sumatra.

June 2010: With UNESCO and the education ministry, HFI published PDATES, a disaster preparedness assessment tool for the education sector.

October/November 2010: HFI took an active coordination role when the country was hit by a triple disaster.

January 2011: The organisation held a series of workshops to root the regional disaster preparedness programmes into the local projects.



## Indonesia— safety comes first

When disaster struck three times in Autumn 2010, local communities in Indonesia were left devastated. The Merapi volcano eruption left many without homes and scarcely prepared for life in Internally Displaced Persons camps. The Mentawai floods that followed the tsunami ravaged small fishing communities on the coast. To be able to cope with such a magnitude of devastation, local communities and civil society organisations need to be prepared. Read below what news Hening Parlan, Indonesia Country Director, brings from Indonesia.

The main priority for Humanitarian Forum Indonesia, one of our national forums, is a disaster resilient society, able to withstand the unleashing of the natural disaster prevalent in the area. HFI works with its member organisations and partners to implement several projects on aid accountability and disaster preparedness.

### Coordination during crisis

In August 2010, Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra erupted and forced more than 27,000 people to flee from their houses. In October, Indonesia was badly affected by Mount Merapi erupting several times, flash floods in West Papua and tsunami waves in the Mentawai Islands.

Humanitarian Forum Indonesia coordinated its members relief efforts for maximum efficiency during crisis. It also coordinated members and other Indonesian NGOs which sent small teams to help the people affected by the devastating floods in Pakistan.

Constant coordination helps prevent the duplication of aid, while allocating the resources where they are needed most. It is useful in the aftermath of a natural disaster, when HFI members and INGOs are offering emergency services (food, medical help, shelter, sanitation, drinkable water etc.).

Humanitarian Forum Indonesia's members have started the rescue operation almost immediately. For



example:

Caritas (known locally as KARINA) teams helped local communities from the area around the volcano and Mentawai. Caritas took tarpaulins, blankets, clothes, water containers and face masks to the affected areas.

Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU) provided emergency tools, evacuation tools, hygiene kits and medicines for IDPs. YEU offered camp management, equipped with health and hygiene kits, emergency kitchen and latrine facilities to accommodate 400 IDPs. It has also distributed sleeping mats, blanket, masks and helped with logistics.



Toxic gas, ashes and molten lava have left communities in North Sumatra at risk of health problems.

## Free giving

Together with Public Interest Research and Advocacy (PIRAC), Humanitarian Forum Indonesia held in January 2011 a focus group discussion with the theme "Accountability in Disaster Funds Management".

The discussion looked at how Media, non-faith and faith-based NGOs assess their standard of accountability in humanitarian work, for example in responding to disaster, helping the refugees, distributing aid for disaster survivors etc. in humanitarian management of funds in Indonesia.

## Disaster preparedness

Indonesia has 22 active volcanoes which present a threat to the human lives and livelihoods around them. Therefore, swift action is required and early preparation can help avoid massive losses of lives and livelihoods.

Last year, Humanitarian Forum Indonesia held a Contingency Planning Workshop for its member organisations. The simulation aimed to enhance the capacity of its members in handling emergency situations such as volcano eruptions and contributed on the action plan for potential evacuation and on handling the situation of refugees during emergencies. This activity continued with a field simulation on Papandayan, one of the most active volcanoes in West Java.

In October 2010, in cooperation with our partners, Humanitarian Forum Indonesia organised a Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop for three villages in Banyumas. 35 participants from the local community and the Local Agency for Energy and Mineral Resource Slamet were trained in disaster preparedness.



## Organisation Profile



Dompét Dhuafa Republika is an Indonesian NGO started by 4 journalists which grew to be a society-based Zakat management institution. Its projects include a free boarding school for children, bachelor diploma scholarships, capacity building for teachers and provision of healthcare services for the impoverished.

Website: <http://www.dompetedhuafa.or.id/>

In January 2011, Humanitarian Forum Indonesia continued its commitment to exposing disaster preparedness techniques to a broader audience through an agreement with the CIKAL School in Jakarta. HFI will do a series of training sessions, enabling teachers and schoolchildren to be better prepared for when disaster strikes.

## Regional beacon

Indonesia is part of The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), therefore a local disaster preparedness scheme suited to the specific needs of this disaster prone area is a necessary. AADMER

(ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response) was discussed in January 2011 during a Focus Group meeting organised by Humanitarian Forum Indonesia, Child Fund Indonesia and the ASEAN Secretariat itself.

The focus group agreed that although AADMER has been ratified since 2005, there are still gaps when it comes to coordination and cooperation and every ASEAN country has to develop its own emergency response programme.

## Sudan— time to act

An important actor on the global stage, Sudan was the biggest and most religiously diverse country in Africa. In January 2011, the citizens of Sudan voted on the separation of Southern Sudan, therefore creating a new country with new needs and challenges. Tareq Bakri tells us more about the NGO sector both sides of the border.

In December 2010, Dr. Hany and Tareq Bakri, our Partnership Manager, visited both Khartoum (North Sudan) and Juba (South Sudan) to assess the local humanitarian needs. To attract further international interest for Sudan, they attended the “International Donors and Investors Conference for East Sudan” in Kuwait.



The local civil society in Sudan needs to be strengthened to carry through this transitional phase towards a brand new state.



parties, so that vital humanitarian work can be carried out, with support and mutual respect on all sides.

See our previous newsletters to find out more about our work in Sudan, bridging the gaps and creating lasting partnerships.

“Partnership: From Theory to Practice” aimed to strengthen the bond between civil society and government.

The Humanitarian Forum is discussing the possibility of working in both North and South Sudan as we believe also that it is important for local NGOs to continue to exchange information and experience, and build further partnerships. Without these local forums, improvements that are made in terms of organisations’ capacity and impact will be limited.

The Humanitarian Forum has been working to heal the rifts and bring about understanding between all



While in Juba, Dr. Hany met with community leaders to discuss local needs.



## Somalia – help from near and far

The Humanitarian Forum has taken an active interest in the Somali CSOs, both from Somalia itself and the Diaspora. In partnership with the Muslim Charities Forum, we held a series of workshops for the Somali Diaspora in the UK this February and have noted what the local communities are doing for themselves in the country. Shahira Maarouf reports.

After the collapse of the former Somali state, Somalia is a country facing an ongoing humanitarian crisis.

The series of meetings aims to bring together for the first time and create a space for dialogue among the Somali NGOs to address the challenges they face and discuss the next steps to take to address the humanitarian crisis facing Somalia.

Some of the organisations represented in the meeting were:

HARDO, MUFED, Saada, UK Somali Students Association and Human Relief Foundation.



It was said that Somali NGOs should collectively co-ordinate themselves in order to benefit those in need and to have an impact within the western UK society and societies in Somalia.



The shared vision which came out of this series of meetings is that the perception of Somalia as a failed state can be reversed through partnerships between the organisations and with local communities and the government.

We will continue to support the Somali civil society, both at local level and through the Diaspora.



The Somali Diaspora came to our meeting in London, with 16 organisations in attendance.

### Focus on Civil Society

On the ground in Somalia, we have been delighted to note the good work the local organisations are doing. *Wadajiar Human Rights Development Network* is bringing together CSOs from different walks of life with various programmes (women, youth etc.) to educate communities about their rights and stop harmful traditional practices.

*Safety Foundation for Development*, another local organisation, does extraordinary work in providing for the villagers hard-hit by drought and helping underprivileged children get access to education.



According to the World Bank, an investment in disaster preparedness could prove effective in reducing losses from future disasters.

In response to the floods in Pakistan, The Humanitarian Forum helped to develop an agenda and bring donors together for the Emergency Meeting for the **Organisation of Islamic Conference's Humanitarian partners** in August 2010, where just under *1 billion USD* were pledged for the hard-hit people in need of relief.

The meeting was co-chaired by OIC Secretary General, Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Shah Mahmood Qureshi. It gathered together at short notice several Muslim and Western NGOs (Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, British Red Cross) and officials from both Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Libya and western countries—UK, US, Germany and others. Dr. Hany El-Banna, our president, was there to visit Islamabad, Multan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and attend the OIC conference.

Six months after the deluge, Dr. Hany returned to the flood-affected area of Sindh and discussed the reconstruction of the devastated provinces in a meeting with Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani.

It seemed apparent there is a need for local NGOs to collaborate and share resources, while capacity building

## Pakistan—ready for reconstruction

Over 20 million people have been affected by the floods in Pakistan. Almost 2 million of those have lost their homes and 3.2 million hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed. In the aftermath of the disaster, cholera struck the most vulnerable. Six months later, Dr. Hany revisited Pakistan to witness the pains of a country struggling to start again.

workshops could be a potential source of empowerment for local organisations. The sheer scale of the devastation left behind by the floods and the cholera outbreak showed that co-ordination during crisis must be a priority.

The Humanitarian Forum is exploring new avenues in encouraging partnerships between local NGOs in Pakistan and how to participate in capacity building programmes for NGO staff.

Following our 2005 workshop in Pakistan, we identified some key issues faced by local NGOs, such as a lack of specialised training for NGO staff, especially in proposal-writing and gender mainstreaming.



Dr. Hany visited Pakistan in August 2010 and witnessed first hand the devastation left behind by the floods and the local organisations' relief efforts.



## East meets West: Shared Values

In October, we brought together 27 humanitarian leaders from 14 countries for two-days discussion in Istanbul about “Building bridges in humanitarian thinking”. James Shaw-Hamilton tells us more about the conference.

Huseyin Oruc (IHH), Sir Nicholas Young (British Red Cross), Dr. Abdelaziz Hegazy (previous Prime Minister of Egypt and Director of the Egyptian NGO Federation) and Dr. Hany El-Banna

The symposium agreed there is a need to generate trust between all the stakeholders, while engaging as equals nationally and internationally.

Participation was impressive, with senior representatives from UN OCHA, the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Red Cross movement, Christian and secular organisations from the West and Muslim organisations from Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Indonesia and Yemen.

In a wide-ranging discussion, the invitees created a framework to support Islamic humanitarianism globally, as well as identifying strategic solutions.

Opening the symposium, Dr Abdelaziz Hegazy (previous Prime Minister of Egypt and Director of the Egyptian NGO Federation) spoke of “shared values in a troubled world” and challenged the group to bridge the gap between the hope for a better world and current practice. Rashid Khalikov (UN OCHA) **said there was a “clash of ignorance”**.

Group sessions looked at thought into practice. Ian Ridley (World Vision) summarized the ambition of **the group by saying “It takes great courage to say that the most important thing is dialogue and relationships”**.

Dr Hany El-Banna closed the meeting with a final challenge to those in the room and outside it - “Together, we are changing the face of humanitarianism in the 21st century.”



We keep our users up to date via our news and events section with the most important humanitarian resolutions, engaging reports, pressing emergencies and humanitarian events not to be missed.

## Online matters

by **Andreea Sharman**,  
eComms Manager

Our discussion boards provide a neutral space for organisations to meet, greet and share projects online. Our database contains some of the most important resources for small and medium sized NGOs. To learn more about our activities, sign-up to our newsletter. You can get involved by sending us a profile of your organisation or sharing resources you want to make known to the world at [info@humanitarianforum.org](mailto:info@humanitarianforum.org).

Around 2 billion people have access to internet and 600 million of those have Facebook accounts. The value of the website as a humanitarian tool, for communicating with the users, is indisputable. Our page is updated constantly, keeping the people who click LIKE **up to date with the most important issues, our own blog posts or Dr. Hany’s, videos** and exclusive photos, such as the ones from our Conference for Libya.

Website: [www.humanitarianforum.org](http://www.humanitarianforum.org); Facebook: The Humanitarian Forum; Humanitarian Forum Indonesia; Humanitarian Forum Yemen; Twitter: thfonline; Tumblr: thfonline; Blogs: [thepresidentpages.blogspot.com](http://thepresidentpages.blogspot.com); [thehumanitarianforum.blogspot.com](http://thehumanitarianforum.blogspot.com); [hfindonesia.blogspot.com](http://hfindonesia.blogspot.com).



The London Secretariat works with our members to ensure local communities around the globe are empowered.



Empowered communities are able to cope better with natural and man-made disasters.



Humanitarian partnerships ensure help reaches those who need it most.



Our workshops and conferences shape a space for humanitarian partnerships between organisations.



Photo credits: Cover: THF/Islamic Relief, Pg. 2-4, 6-9, 11, 14-15, back: THF; Pg.5: THF/ IHH; Pg. 10: IRIN; Pg. 12: Guy Oliver/IRIN/THF; Pg. 13: Kunow Sheikh Abdi/Mercy Corps/SOYCA/Safety Foundation/ THF.

The Humanitarian Forum, Suite 27, 58/60 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4DB, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 207 368 1645  
Email: [info@humanitarianforum.org](mailto:info@humanitarianforum.org)  
[www.humanitarianforum.org](http://www.humanitarianforum.org)  
Registered charity no. 1122213

Fax: +44 (0) 207 937 3400  
Website:  
Donations: +44 (0) 207 368 1645