

AHOPE



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Supporting Local Leadership in Crisis



Letter from the President

Dr. Hany El-Banna



The past six months have shown us disturbing images of people in need, suffering and starving. This mountain of human sorrow can only be climbed and soothed with help from us all. Whether we are locals affected by the suffering around us, influential regional leaders or international organisations, we must all take a stand.

The mountain of human sorrow can only be soothed if local humanitarian leadership can emerge. The Humanitarian Forum has been working very hard in countries like Libya and Yemen to nurture small, local organisations. Be it emergency management or capacity building, The Humanitarian Forum is working with partners such as Islamic Relief and Islamic Development Bank, and in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent and UN OCHA to enable local leaders to emerge.

I am delighted to support the growth of local humanitarian leadership and ask everyone to support local communities around the world.

President

Editorial

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There is no shortage of courage and capability in local humanitarian organisations. They are the first to respond in a disaster and are still there when international staff leave. Often, they just need a place to stand - the skills, connections and respect to help them deliver.

In this Newsletter, you will see this in our recent work in Libya and Yemen. Here, in very challenging circumstances, The Humanitarian Forum is making a difference - like training over 700 people in eastern Libya or highlighting needs in southern Yemen. We are helping humanitarians internationally and in remote areas to work by building trust, developing a larger active NGO sector and improving cooperation.

We cannot do this alone. We rely on the generosity of donors large and small. Please support our work.



Director

James Shaw — Hamilton

Focus on Libya—Crisis Overview

Ahmad Salah, Coordinator of our Libyan office, shares some of his impressions of the humanitarian landscape on the ground and looks forward to the next steps to be taken in strengthening local communities in Libya.

Protests started in February, soon after those in Tunisia and Egypt, and were met with repression on a scale that had not been seen before. The state violence against civilians was immediately apparent. There was a strong desire from Western and Gulf countries to immediately provide protection to civilians but for several months it was not clear what humanitarian relief organizations could do.

Inside Libya, Civil Society organizations were starting to form and emerge in a context that had access to increased public space freedom for association and expression. With their best abilities and resources the CSO responded remarkably to the humanitarian crisis. Families hosted displaced Libyans fleeing their towns for safety and provided them with food. The majority of new Libyan organizations focus on supporting displaced individuals with food and medicine. This environment was absent for the last 42 years in eastern Libya. The Humanitarian Forum realized that there is a need to enhance the skills of staff and volunteers of emerging organizations and connect them with those of similar interest in the region and the world

The needs are complex; they can be met efficiently and speedily through collaboration and partnerships between humanitarian organisations wanting to provide relief. This avoids the duplication of efforts and enables those in need in Libya to receive the aid and care they require with minimal waste of resources. The fluidity of the humanitarian landscape requires a local presence and our work between Libya's borders and outside them has shown that The Humanitarian Forum has been able to bring aid organisations from different corners of the world to meet the needs of Libyan people.

Because organisations have different skills, operating methods, contacts, trust and access to funding, improving the quality of development and humanitarian work becomes increasingly vital for saving more lives. For example, lasting humanitarian partnerships were established during the conferences held in Cairo with



Our members are on the ground in Libya, providing much needed relief. The Humanitarian Forum is working with local NGOs to enable them to help those in need more accountably and efficiently.

the League of Arab States, UN OCHA and international and local NGOs. One such example is the collaboration between the League of Arab States and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), who have taken leading roles in coordinating efforts and organised two relief convoys involving 50 humanitarian agencies.

Our meetings have highlighted how major humanitarian actors came to better understand each others ways of working and feel more confident to share information, **resources and ideas.** The Humanitarian Forum's own website allows information and project sharing on <http://www.humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/reports-and-resources.html>. Send your own report or project proposal to info@humanitarianforum.org.

Starting with our needs assessment in March, our local office has worked tirelessly with trainers and consultants to devise a practical series of workshops aimed at building the capacity of local humanitarian leaders (Super Humanitarians).

From April onwards, we are delighted to say we have trained in fundraising, management, networking and communication 750 people in the cities of Benghazi, Al Bayda, Derna and Tobruk. On estimation, over 40% of the participants were women.

This resounding success was greatly helped by the Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Relief Germany and we look forward to enhancing our workshop series through helping these small organisation network and connecting them with international NGOs.

International bridges across the Nile

Following our humanitarian coordination meeting held in March in Cairo, we joined the League of Arab States, OIC and UN OCHA on 8th May and 6th June to discuss effective humanitarian partnerships in the field. Shahira Maarouf reports on the invitees and outcomes of both meetings.

Because humanitarian coordination is essential to meet the needs of the people efficiently and speedily, on 24th March, The Humanitarian Forum had gathered a selection of the most important regional and international humanitarian actors. More information on the March meeting can be found in the previous issue of our newsletter.

"There are costs to many lives if we procrastinate"

On 8th May we convened a meeting in Cairo, hosted by the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The conference brought together 80 representatives from 57 organisations from the UN, the Red Cross movement, western international NGOs, Islamic INGOs and NGOs from Egypt and Libya.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Abdelaziz Hegazy, former Egyptian Prime Minister, called on OIC, LAS and the donor community to immediately create a humanitarian relief fund for Libya crisis: "There are costs to many lives if we procrastinate".

Her Excellency Dr. Sima Bahous, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Affairs of LAS, remarked upon the importance of the meeting: "...it is a pivotal moment in history for the Islamic Development Bank, the UN, League of Arab States, non-governmental organisations and regional governmental bodies to work together on a humanitarian crisis in the Arab world".

Ahmed Ben Moussa, head of the Libyan National Transitional Council's Humanitarian Aid Committee, gave a first hand briefing of the humanitarian situation in different parts of the country and said that "Libya is on the verge of collapse".

All attending agencies agreed to improve coordination and regularly share information. The Humanitarian Aid Committee and UN OCHA committed to influence



governments and regional bodies to guarantee the protection of civilians and provide all humanitarian actors with access to civilians in all areas of Libya.

"Today our aim is to have effective humanitarian partnerships in the field"

On 6th June, we hosted with the Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya, Panos Moutziz, UN OCHA and the League of Arab States a Round Table Meeting in Cairo bringing together Arab, Islamic and western organizations involved in providing relief in Libya.

Panos Moutziz highlighted the need for better information sharing and coordination among humanitarian partners in order to reach currently inaccessible areas and determine the still unmet **humanitarian needs: "today our aim is to have effective humanitarian partnerships in the field"**.

The Humanitarian Forum will continue to find ways for organizations to work together better.



Libya: Training for success

Our civil society training workshops are designed to support leadership and management of newly emerging Libyan civil society organisations' staff and volunteers. The workshops were organised in partnership with Libyan Committee for Humanitarian Aid and Relief, the Libyan Coalition of CSOs and the Libyan Red Crescent. Tareq Bakri, our Partnerships Manager, tells us more about the background of civil society, the training and the opportunities on the ground.

From April and until July 2011, The Humanitarian Forum has conducted workshops in the Libyan towns of Benghazi, Al Baiyda, Derna, Ajdabiya and Tobruk, aimed at building the capacity of local NGO leaders.

Over 750 participants attended these workshops (over 40 % were women). Also, hands-on sessions have been conducted to help Libyan NGOs utilize the internet in networking and communicating their achievements.

Background

Most of the NGOs in eastern Libya are newly formed or not registered yet. The work of the Libyan NGOs is focusing mainly on relief and emergency activities for displaced persons and on fulfilling basic needs (food, water and shelter) for poor communities.

The local organisations have access to areas where INGOs might not be fully involved and are supported by the Libyan Diaspora from Europe and the United States.

Training

The workshops have improved the capacity of the participants and provided them with state of the art knowledge and skills of the Results Based Management (RBM) approach to effectively plan, implement and monitor relief and development programmes. Furthermore participants were trained how to attract and manage volunteers.

The training workshops provided space for local organisations to network and discuss common concerns, opportunities and explore potential partnerships, while gaining confidence in creating a stronger civil sector in Libya.



We also noticed that new CSOs were keen to break their decades long isolation and interact with international organisations.

Many Libyans aspired for their organisations to operating at the international level and help other communities at time of need.

Opportunities

The Humanitarian Forum is honoured to announce that it will continue its training of Libyan NGOs.

This work is generously supported by the Islamic Development Bank and Islamic Relief, and is in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent and UN OCHA.



See pictures from the meeting on our Flickr page: flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum.

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: From January: In cooperation with Muslim Charities Forum, we held a series of meetings for Somali NGOs based in the UK.
May: James's article on Cross-cultural collaboration, building partnerships between Western and Islamic humanitarian organisations is published in the 50th issue of the Humanitarian Practice Network's newsletter. Download a copy here: <http://www.humanitarianforum.org/data/files/humanitarianexchange050.pdf>



Pakistan: July: Dr. Hany returned to Pakistan one year after the tragic floods. He visited Multan, Rawal Pindi and Khyber Pakthunkhwa to get an update on the situation, and to help with the relief efforts. He also met with Pakistan NGO forum to organise a Ramadan food pack funded by members of the forum and the anniversary of the flood to be organised by the forum.



Libya: February/March: Dr. Hany visited Libya and Tunisia for needs assessment.
April/June/July: Dr. Hany El Banna, Dr. Mohamed Abu-Elmagd and Mr. Tarek Abdelgawad visited Eastern Libya. During this visit, four workshops have been conducted in Benghazi and Albayda to build the capacity of leaders of the Libyan NGOs.
March/May/June: Workshops conducted in Cairo focused on the Libyan crisis, new developments and how international and regional organisations and governments can help the people in need.

United States:
April: We met with the UNFPA Global NGO Advisory Panel, to discuss the Commission on Population and Development.



Sudan: June: Dr. Hany gave a speech at the "Civil Society Organizations in the Islamic world" conference as a guest of OIC- Islamic cooperation conference,



Somalia: July: Dr. Hany conducted an assessment visit in Somalia as part of the Programme.

August: The Humanitarian Forum and the OIC gathered in Nairobi for a meeting on the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. The meeting focused on strategic and operational issues and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The meeting discussed how humanitarian organisations can coordinate their efforts better.

The Humanitarian Forum 2011

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

Sweden: August: James spoke at an international conference on NGO law

Switzerland: June: Hening Parlan joined the UNHCR annual NGO consultations, speaking about inter-faith partnerships.

August: Dr Hany, James and Nicholas Young met with the heads of the IFRC and ICRC to discuss humanitarian partnerships. Dr. Hany spoke at the Red Talk event.

Balkans: July: James wrote an article for the OSCE entitled '**Preventing the Abuse of Non-Profit Organizations for Terrorist Financing**'.

Turkey: Istanbul: May: James attended an experts Round Table, titled 'Development of Arab family network'. The conference was to strengthen the family through a new diplomacy, developed with the assistance of an international network of scholars, policymakers, organizations and citizens.

Lebanon: January: 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).

August: Dr. Hany met with high-ranking Lebanese officials to discuss the needs in Somalia.

Yemen: June: A workshop was held in the capital of Sana'a. Initiated and developed by the Humanitarian Forum Yemen, it was entitled *emergency management skills*.

July: The Humanitarian Forum Yemen together with UNOCHA organized a second workshop on emergency response in Aden.

See pages 9-10 for more information.



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

February: Humanitarian Forum Indonesia, in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat, Childfund Indonesia and APG (ASEAN partner groups), held an advanced focus group discussion with the theme "AADMER Priorities and Modality Partnerships for Vulnerable Groups" at the Hotel Ibis Tamarind in Jakarta.

Humanitarian Forum Indonesia remains committed to fostering partnerships between the government and communities within the ASEAN region.

For more information access www.humanitarianforumindonesia.org.



carried out a needs assessment with World Food



issues associated with the assistance and participants partners can coordi-

Libya: The local connection

Through our workshops and meetings, we bring local organizations together to share ideas and experience, and to learn. Fatima al Zahraa, attended our June workshops in Al Bayda and Derna. She has selected for us a touching testimonial of local Libyan civil society. [More testimonials on our website.](#)

“I regret these workshops did not occur earlier”

“I am a civil engineer by profession and I felt the need to set up *Positive People* in order to initiate activities that have a positive impact on society.



Intitham Abduljawad Badr is the founder of *Positive People*.

Our organisation consists of 31 members. Activities include environmental awareness and, since the beginning of the unrest, we have been focusing on relief work, concentrating efforts on housing and providing housing food and medical assistance to the displaced individuals that arrived from Ajdabiya.

The disaster management workshop has been crucial in helping me to learn the concept of coordinating tasks and sharing resources in order to be as efficient as possible.

I regret that these workshops did not occur earlier as tasks were not coordinated amongst organisations when housing and providing aid to the displaced persons.

Every organisation raised their individual funds and worked on an individual basis there lacked coordination hence some efforts were duplicated or were lacking.

I definitely want to see NGOs coordinate tasks and activities or an official umbrella body that can help us coordinate tasks. I hope that as resources improve this **can possibly be coordinated online.**”

(Intitham Abduljawad Badr, Founder, speaking at our workshop in Derna, 24th June 2011)

Indonesia— moving forward

Since the past issue of our newsletter, our colleagues from Humanitarian Forum Indonesia have been working tirelessly on issues such as accountability in humanitarian aid, cross-cultural partnerships and philanthropy. Our Country Director, Hening, visited our office recently and told us more about their recent work.

In the past few months, we at Humanitarian Forum Indonesia have continued our work on formulating standards of accountability in humanitarian aid. Since there are no relevant Indonesian standards, we feel compelled to act.

To ensure help reaches those in need efficiently, we are in the process of developing a standard relevant to the **socio-cultural context of our country. We feel a “home-grown” dynamic solution is the answer to accountability** standards in Indonesia and we are working hard towards achieving this.

Our inter-faith work has also gone from strength to strength, as we developed discussions with local actors and communities. We look forward to more workshops on cross-cultural partnerships in order to provide that neutral middle ground organisations large and small can meet with communities.

Together with our member organisation Dompok Dhuafa, we are developing a public discussion on the broader topic of philanthropy in Indonesia. We are also looking forward to discussing potential improvements for fundraising within the NGO sector.



Yemen: Effective Emergency Management

Yemen itself had a role to play in the Arab Spring, with the unrest and heavy fighting causing further displacement. Humanitarian Forum Yemen responded straight away via coordination efforts and two emergency management workshops in June and July 2011. Ahmad Al Sharaji, our Country Director for Yemen, paints a grim picture of the needs in South Yemen.

During the past few months, Yemen has seen a fresh wave of displacement and refugees due to the unrest and heavy fighting. The already stretched resources catering for hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons are at breaking point.

The refugees and IDPs aren't the only ones affected, with fuel and food shortages pushing many Yemenis well below the poverty line. According to UN OCHA, fuel on the black market is 65-166% higher than the cost at petrol stations and the cost of bread has soared by 50% in the past few months.

According to IRIN, many cannot afford basic food items like bread and some families even skip meals. This particularly puts children at risk, with over half of them malnourished, according to a UN OCHA estimate.

Many INGOs have left Yemen, creating a gap in the delivery and coverage of humanitarian assistance. The Emergency Response Fund for Yemen is underfunded, with only over \$6 million allocated to respond to this crisis.

In this fluid humanitarian landscape, Humanitarian Forum Yemen is actively responding to the needs of local civil society. The severity and constant change of the humanitarian situation means that planning and implementing effective relief is a great challenge. Emergency teams are faced with a difficult situation characterised by lack of information, resources and coordination.

To meet these challenges, the Humanitarian Forum Yemen designed a one day workshop in Sana'a to develop emergency management skills, attended by 38 organizations, from both local and INGOs, as well as the private sector. The idea was to bring multiple groups of people that come together from different organizations with different goals to reduce the impact of an



Fresh waves of IDPs and refugees in the area of Abyan in the South of Yemen are in dire need of help.

emergency in the following sectors: IDPs , Health Care and Protection.

The success of the June workshop and the worsening humanitarian situation in the south of Yemen saw UNOCHA and HFY replicate the workshop in Aden City in July.

To focus the discussion, the three most critical sites were selected, namely Abyaan, Lahj, and Aden. The workshop was attended by over 40 participants, representing local organizations from each of these cities, as well as local authorities, and international organizations, such as WFP, UNHCR, IOM, Care, ADRA, and Save the Children.

The participants discussed the immediate needs of the IDPs in Aden, Lahj and the situation in Abyan, with emphasis on protection, health and emergency needs.

Following our workshops, Humanitarian Forum Yemen has encouraged its members to partner and devise an emergency relief scheme for IDPs in the Abyan area. On page 10 you will be able to see the details of our project to save a family at a cost of just \$85.



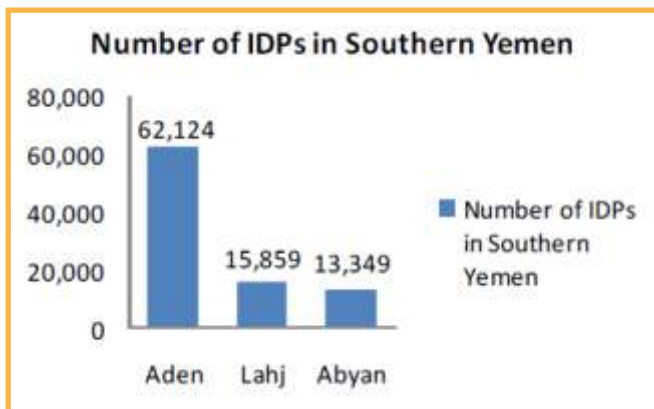
South Yemen Crisis—\$85 can save a family

Following our Emergency Management Workshops in Sana' a and Aden, Humanitarian Forum Yemen is coordinating relief efforts in Southern Yemen and particularly the Abyan area. Noha Yehya Al Eryani, our Yemen Programme Manager, tells us more about this much-needed project to offer emergency relief packets to IDPs and refugees in Southern Yemen.



A month's supply of essential items for IDPs costs just \$85.

The continuous unrest in the Abyan area has led to as many as 91,000 people fleeing towards Aden City and Lahj. The IDPs are hosted mainly in schools and with host families in the city, who can barely cope themselves.



In the first instance, potential intervention plans were discussed during a workshop organised by Humanitarian Forum Yemen in Aden (see page 9). Local organisations identified points of access and needs in several areas in and around Abyan.

The organisations have committed to deliver emergency packages to families in need, which would sustain them for a month. The packages will contain both food and non food items: sugar, rice, oil, flour, tea, water, infant milk, blankets, sheets, tents, cooking utensils, latrines and first aid kits.

A month's supply of essential items costs just \$85.

Because of the conflict, access into Abyan is restricted, making the total account for IDPs quite difficult.

Displaced communities and families are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Items such as food, water, shelter, protection and healthcare are vital for survival.

In response to the critical situation for the hundreds of families affected, Humanitarian Forum Yemen has started coordinating an emergency response together with local partners.



To increase the coverage of the area and reach even more people in need, the organizations will also work in **Rasad, Sarar, Khanfir, Lawadr, AL Wade'a, Ahwar, and Madiyah.**

Write to info@humanitarianforum.org or phone +44 (0) 207 368 1645 to contribute to this project.

Humanitarian Leader = Super Humanitarian

This summer, The Humanitarian Forum introduces a new concept: “superhumanitarianism”. Male or female, 5 or 105 years old– anybody can be a Super Humanitarian. Tareq Bakri, our Partnerships Manager, tells us more about Super Humanitarians and where they can be found.

Super Humanitarians existed before we thought of this concept. The Humanitarian Forum just gave them a name and a platform for work and discussion. We recognised the strength of individuals who day by day make a difference to their neighbours and communities. We recognised the strength of the individuals who reach out to other individuals and organisations – to learn more and do more to help.

Super Humanitarians can be found everywhere – in your family, on the doorstep of your neighbour, at the local community centre or even in the local worshipping place. They come from all walks of life, faiths and backgrounds. They work tirelessly to empower their community, starting with the child attending disaster preparedness classes in Indonesia and who can one day save a life in case of earthquake to the leader of a local NGO in Yemen, who is striving to improve her organisation via attending Train the Trainer workshops and passing on the knowledge to others. These are the Super Humanitarians we believe in and nurture.

Are you Super Humanitarian? Find more information on superhumanitarian.org.uk



Super Humanitarians strive to make local communities around the world stronger and more resilient.



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.

Our website provide a neutral space for organisations to 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.

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.

Online matters

by **Andreea Sharman**,
eCommunications Manager

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The unrest in MENA has left many people in need of help, in some areas where only local organisations can reach.



Our humanitarian coordination meetings help organisations be more efficient and create successful partnerships.



An empowered civil society guarantees a stronger, safer future.



Working together for the future of civil society. In MENA.



Our training workshops ensure aid reaches those in need in a fast and efficient way, from local organisations.