

The
Hague

HUMANITARIAN DATA FORUM

12-14
June 2024

Shaping the Future of Humanitarian Data

PROGRAMME



centre for humdata

HDX

**COMPLEX
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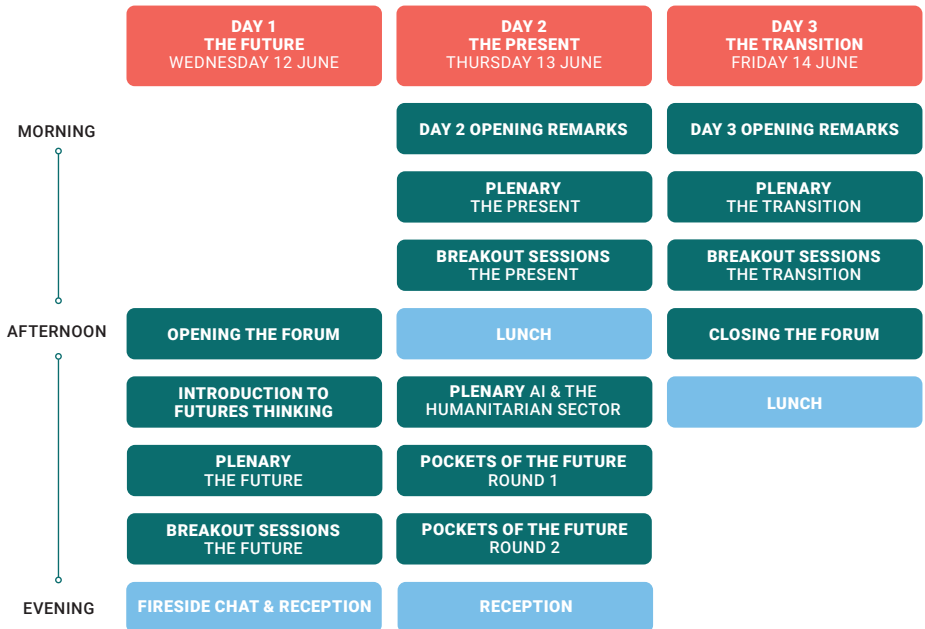
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

WELCOME

This year marks 10 years of the Humanitarian Data Exchange platform. To recognise this milestone, OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data is hosting the inaugural Humanitarian Data Forum, which will bring together actors across the sector to collectively shape the future of humanitarian data. Our ambition is to energise our community to navigate the challenges and unlock the opportunities the next decade may bring.

The programme is shaped around four themes: strengthening our data ecosystem; integrating advanced analysis; advancing the responsible use of data and technology; and building partnerships and capacity. Over the three days, we will be guided by 'The Three Horizons' model, a foresight tool for thinking through how systems change. We will start with a focus on the future, then reflect on the present, and finally explore how we transition to the future we want to build.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



REGISTRATION**12:30pm - 1:00pm****OPENING REMARKS****1:00pm - 1:30pm***Swing***Welcome to the Humanitarian Data Forum***Sarah Telford, Lead, Centre for Humanitarian Data, OCHA**Mariëlle Vavier, Deputy Mayor, City of The Hague***KEYNOTE****1:30pm - 2:00pm***Swing***An Introduction to Futures Thinking***Dr. Wendy Schultz, Co-Director, Jigsaw Foresight; Senior Fellow, Center for Postnormal Policy and Futures Studies; Fellow, World Futures Studies Federation***PLENARY****2:00pm - 3:00pm***Swing***The Future of the Humanitarian System**

The current humanitarian system is characterised by complex, frequent and interconnected crises, unprecedented needs, insufficient resources, and a demand for more locally-led responses. Looking forward, what might shape the future of the humanitarian system? What advances are we seeing today that give us confidence that humanitarians can step up to the very real challenges of tomorrow and better meet the growing needs of affected people?

*Panellists:**Nathalie Olijslager, Director of Stabilisation and Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands**Gemma Connell, Chief of the Assessment, Planning & Monitoring Branch, OCHA**Minako Manome, Head of Risk Anticipation Hub, UNDP***COFFEE BREAK****3:00pm - 3:30pm**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS**3:30pm - 5:00pm****Drivers of Change in the Humanitarian Data System***Jazz 1*

Through a collaborative foresight exercise, we will investigate the 'drivers of change' that may shape the future of the humanitarian data system. We will undertake a process of collective prioritisation, interrogating which trends, from environmental to political to technical, feel most impactful.

Climate Prediction for a Faster Response*Jazz 2*

We will hear from climate scientists about the current state and expected advances in climate forecasting. This will be followed by an exploration of the capacities and systems required to fully integrate climate prediction into humanitarian processes to drive anticipatory approaches.

Local Data, Global Systems*Jazz 3*

The humanitarian community has committed to achieving a more locally-led and contextually-specific response, while seeking to deliver more standardised and interoperable global datasets. This discussion will unpack how we balance these two imperatives, in service to maximising the impact of data for decision-making.

Integrating Novel Data Sources*Jazz 4*

Novel data sources, such as drone imagery and call detail records, are being used to fill critical information gaps in crisis contexts. How can we integrate these new sources, and the innovative methods that underpin them, into humanitarian analysis and manage the risks and dependencies they might create?

FIRESIDE CHAT & RECEPTION**5:00pm - 6:30pm***Swing & Foyer 1*

We will be joined by Maarten van Aalst, Director General and Chief Science Officer at Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, for a wide-ranging conversation on the climate crisis and the consequences for humanitarian action.

OPENING REMARKS**9:30am - 9:45am***Swing*

PLENARY**9:45am - 10:45am***Swing***Facing the Challenges of Data-Driven Decision-Making**

Humanitarians are operating under unprecedented constraints and complexity. This session will reflect on the experience of decision-makers and their efforts to incorporate data into their work. With the proliferation of data and analysis, how do we decipher the signal from the noise, use creative approaches, and strengthen the throughline from data to decision-making?

*Panellists:**Aseel Zidan, Department Manager, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics**Derk Segaar, Director of International Assistance, the Netherlands Red Cross**Monica Nthiga, Regional Director – Eastern & Southern Africa, Humanitarian**OpenStreetMap**Paola Emerson, Head of Office, OCHA Mozambique*

COFFEE BREAK**10:45am - 11:15am**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS**11:15am - 12:45pm****Predicting the Impact of Conflict***Jazz 3*

This session will bring together perspectives from conflict experts. We will consider opportunities to develop and improve models that predict the humanitarian impacts of armed conflict on vulnerable populations, with a view to enabling their use in anticipatory action.

Simulating Risk-Based Decision-Making*Swing*

Through an interactive simulation of a climate shock, participants will experience risk-informed decision-making and explore how to navigate the uncertainty of forecasts and the necessary trade-offs between speed and confidence.

Tactics for Sharing Data Responsibly*Jazz 1*

This session will surface best practices for ensuring the safe, ethical and effective management of data in complex operating environments. Experts will share examples of how the actions for data responsibility have been used to prevent harm and streamline data access for humanitarian partners.

Improving Data Quality*Jazz 2*

As greater quantities of data are being produced and used by humanitarians, developing a shared understanding of data quality is crucial. This session will investigate how quality is currently being assessed and communicated to data consumers, aligning on opportunities to increase the legibility of data quality across organisations.

Achieving Interoperability through Taxonomies and Standards*Jazz 4*

This session will examine efforts to address interoperability challenges to date, reflecting on improvements to data standardisation in the sector and beyond. On the basis of these advances and their impact, we will identify easy wins and longer term ambitions for consistency in the data produced and shared.

LUNCH**12:45pm - 1:45pm***Outside Swing*

PLENARY**1:45pm - 2:30pm***Swing***AI & the Humanitarian Sector**

This session will begin with an overview of AI's current capabilities, followed by a discussion of the key considerations that should inform how humanitarians integrate AI into their work.

Opening remarks:

Kasia Chmielinski, Founder, Data Nutrition Project

Panellists:

Alex Nawar, Global Affairs, OpenAI

Caitlin Augustin, Vice President of Product and Programs, DataKind

Katya Klinova, Head of Data Insights for Social and Humanitarian Action, UN Global Pulse

WHAT ARE POCKETS OF THE FUTURE?

In The Three Horizons model, 'pockets of the future in the present' show us ways to move beyond business-as-usual. They are examples of new ways of working that give us confidence that a new system is possible. Our 'pockets of the future' will showcase exciting new approaches, initiatives and products from across the humanitarian data community

POCKETS OF THE FUTURE – ROUND 1**2:30pm - 3:30pm****Humanitarian Applications of AI***Jazz 2*

Reflections from humanitarian organisations on early efforts to use AI to improve operations and insights.

Tools for Data Responsibility*Jazz 1*

Case studies demonstrating the integration of technical tools, such as statistical disclosure control, allowing for the minimisation of risk and maximisation of benefit when working with sensitive data.

Innovations in Early Warning*Jazz 3*

A showcase of early warning systems, followed by a discussion on how insights from these systems can be used to better inform humanitarian action.

Storytelling for Impact*Jazz 4*

A discussion on the power of effective data-based, human-centred storytelling and how it can influence decision-makers and raise awareness of critical issues.

COFFEE BREAK**3:30pm - 4:00pm**

POCKETS OF THE FUTURE – ROUND 2**4:00pm - 5:00pm****Effortless Data Exchange through APIs***Jazz 1*

Case studies on APIs, with a discussion on how to make humanitarian data easier to integrate into multiple systems and products.

Estimating Populations*Jazz 4*

A closer look at different population datasets, followed by a discussion on the innovative ways they are being used by humanitarian organisations to understand needs and prioritise assistance.

Triggers for Anticipatory Action*Jazz 2*

Examples of how organisations are using data to power anticipatory approaches, from improving impact predictions of tropical storms to developing risk mitigation strategies with national authorities.

Making Use of Satellite Data*Jazz 3*

A showcase of satellite-derived data products, with a discussion on how to further advance satellite applications in the sector.

RECEPTION**5:00pm - 6:00pm***Outside Swing*

OPENING REMARKS**9:30am - 9:45am***Swing***PLENARY****9:45am - 10:45am***Swing***Powering the Transition**

To quote Wendy Schultz, “you can’t control the future, but you can influence it, by what you choose to do, and what you choose not to do.” Having explored the possible futures for our humanitarian data system, and the challenges of today, this discussion will identify the shifts necessary to achieve our ambition. Recognising the constraints of our contextual environment, we will reflect on where we have agency to act and the energy required to fuel the transition.

Guest Speaker:

*Gwi-Yeop Son, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Development
Coordination Office*

COFFEE BREAK**10:45am - 11:15am****BREAKOUT SESSIONS****11:15am - 12:30pm****Strengthening Our Data Foundations***Jazz 2*

In a persistently fragmented data landscape, this session seeks to articulate what data is essential for building a robust operating picture and how we can make the data available in a frictionless way. We will align on the elements of strong data foundations and identify the opportunities to further integrate critical data into workflows.

Defining Trustworthy Analysis*Jazz 3*

As more analysis is produced to influence humanitarian response, it is important to ensure it can be trusted. Following a shareback of initial findings from several analytical actors in the sector, we will explore how we can set basic standards for transparent, reproducible and credible analysis.

The Next Generation of Humanitarians*Jazz 1*

This session will consider the skill sets that will underpin the future of humanitarian work. What assumptions are we making about the roles that are required, and are there other capabilities that may be critical? We will seek consensus on where there are gaps in capacity and how we might bridge them in creative ways.

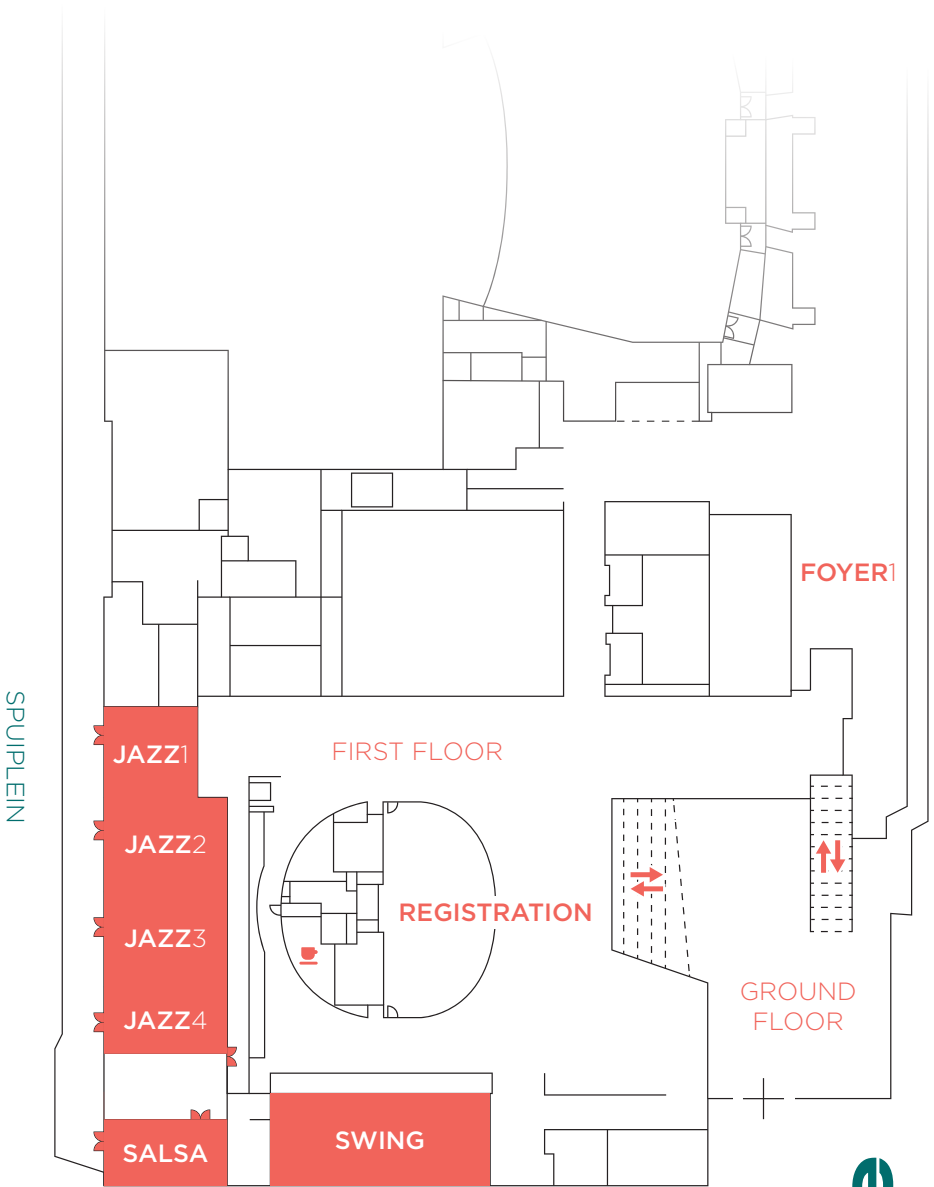
Partnerships to Power the Transition*Jazz 4*

Building on the thinking from across the forum, we will explore the diversity of partnerships needed to achieve a resilient humanitarian data ecosystem. How do we coordinate across the breadth of actors, ensuring we avoid duplication of efforts and remain aligned on our shared vision?

CLOSING REMARKS**12:30pm - 1:00pm***Swing*

LUNCH**1:00pm - 2:00pm***Outside Swing*

FLOOR PLAN





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