



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

IRISH CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

### **Annex 2: Concept Note for the Development of a Diaspora Mapping Mechanism in Ireland for use by Humanitarian Actors**

#### **Introduction**

The overall purpose of this project is to establish an Irish-focused mechanism which will enable diaspora communities and organisations from disaster-affected countries to better engage in humanitarian issues which affect them. Over the past 24 months, the Irish Humanitarian Consultative Process has actively engaged with diaspora networks and organisations in Ireland as it prepares for the WHS. At the national level, a set of recommendations and suggested undertakings were developed to guide Ireland's contribution to improve humanitarian action. One of the agreed suggested undertakings was to 'build the capacities of diaspora to involve them in dialogue, identifying, where appropriate ahead of time, the most affected and vulnerable groups during a crisis'.

#### **Background and Rationale**

The Diaspora community are regarded as a major source of development assistance through for example foreign direct investments (FDI), market development, technology transfer, tourism, political contributions, and more intangible flows of knowledge, new attitudes, and cultural influence. Despite their diversity, many diaspora communities have played a sporadic role in early humanitarian response through their social ties and networks in their country of origin by sending remittances, directly mobilising funds to support programmes in their communities when disasters strike. All sizable emergency responses reveal how the diaspora are able to quickly mobilise and provide immediate assistance and support to their countries of origin.

The World humanitarian consultation had noted that diaspora communities can potentially play an instrumental role in addressing issues that aid actors cannot, such as negotiating access with armed non-state actors, or mitigating the causes and effects of terrorism, extremism and radicalisation (WHS Synthesis Report). There are many untapped opportunities for engaging with the diaspora such as knowledge of the local operating areas, capacity to mobilise resources and collaborative advocacy. These on top of the opportunity to engage with key humanitarian actors to avail of valuable information when undertaking rapid needs assessments, especially during complex emergencies when access to affected populations is especially challenged.

Currently, it is difficult to engage meaningfully with diaspora communities in Ireland due to the fact that there is very little information about their whereabouts, capacities and interests. Initial assessments show that most of the diaspora networks found online in Ireland are not functional or are weak, out-of-date or not easily accessible. While there may be a considerable number of diaspora communities engaging and sending remittances to their home countries, there is no existing or recorded information available of existing diaspora organised groups. Information available however indicate the diaspora/migrant communities are predominantly working on the promotion of culture, access to rights and entitlements, equality and integration issues. There are no coherent groupings bridging their country of origin to the Irish development or humanitarian sectors. To enable engagement and involvement of the diaspora communities in Ireland, the first step will be to explore existing groups from different continents/countries, who they are, what they are doing, their engagement with their country



## WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

### IRISH CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

of origin, etc. The mapping should consist of exploring groups and individuals working on humanitarian issues from different continents/countries. The engagement between the diaspora community in Ireland and the third sector is currently therefore minimal on issues related to humanitarian intervention.

A number of steps are envisioned to engage with diaspora/communities/leaders, a key initial step is to conduct a mapping exercise to engage and understand the needs, capacities and interest in the development of an Irish-focused mechanism.

The steering committee will initiate a mapping to improve engagement with diaspora/communities/leaders in the delivery of Irish humanitarian assistance for an effective response that impact on disaster-affected populations. The main challenges that hinder their active engagement with the key Irish humanitarian stakeholders are: -

- Lack of knowledge by key Irish humanitarian actors about the existing diaspora networks in Ireland;
- What capacity and competency do these diaspora organisations have in terms of knowledge, resources, experience and skills?
- What is their status, diversity and interest?

#### **General Objectives**

The overall objective is to develop a mechanism to facilitate improved engagement of the diaspora who represent disaster-affected communities. This will result in a more efficient and effective humanitarian response to vulnerable populations in need.

#### **Specific Objectives of the Mapping Exercise**

1. Identify the existing diaspora organisations in Ireland involved in humanitarian action and understand their capacities, needs and requirements for better engagement.
2. Identify the information needs of the Irish humanitarian actors from the diaspora community in Ireland
3. Identify the gaps between what already exists and what is desired (including lessons learnt from recent humanitarian disasters)
4. Develop and implement a methodology to bridge this gap between what is desired and what currently exists

#### **Methodology**

To achieve the above specific objectives, the study will start gathering and analysing all available information on the diaspora networks which currently exist. A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis will be conducted to understand their capacities and abilities to assist humanitarian actors in Ireland.

To gather this information both primary and secondary data collection methods will be used, e.g. surveys; questionnaires; Key Informant Interview (KII); Focus Group Discussion (FGD). Content analysis from Government websites; Embassy, INGOs, records of Licensing Agency, and snowball tracing from churches and International students will be accessed.



# WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

## IRISH CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

In order to understand what information humanitarian actors would require from the diaspora, a number of primary and secondary sources will be utilised. Questionnaires, KIIs, and FGDs will all be conducted with identified key humanitarian stakeholders, analysed and summarised in a way to understand how best to engage with diaspora communities in Ireland and create a cooperative platform.

An information hub will be implemented by providing an up-to-date database of diaspora organisations in Ireland to enable easy access to the required information by all key humanitarian actors in Ireland. A standard database/software development process will be followed: such as Requirement Elicitation, Analysis, Design and Implementation. The database will have a feature to access detailed information categorized by country, status, region, capacity and other parameters to be identified during the previous stages.