

# European Humanitarian Forum Brussels, March 2024



European Humanitarian Forum, 18-19 March, Brussels	Echo Partners Segment, 20 March, Brussels
<p>“The third edition of the <b>European Humanitarian Forum</b> organized by the Belgium Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission will explore and address the implications of the current humanitarian crises, including relevant interaction of humanitarian aid with other key sectors and policy areas.”</p> <p>Focal topics of the forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding gap and prioritization</li> <li>• Forgotten crises and fragile humanitarian environments</li> </ul> <p>See the dedicated <a href="#">website</a> for more information.</p>	<p>It corresponds to the former “ECHO partners meeting”, which used to happen in December and was postponed in 2020 due to COVID then cancelled in 2021/ 2022 due to the first EHF.</p> <p><a href="#">Program of the partner segment in PDF format</a></p>

## MdM-Delegations

Chapter	Participants	Chapter	Participants
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elise Lesieur, RP Asia</li> <li>• Florence RIGAL, president</li> <li>• Françoise SIVIGNON, board member</li> <li>• Helena Ranchal, Head of International Operations Department</li> <li>• Léa Izoret, public funding unit</li> </ul>	Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alessia [focal point] [ECHO segment]</li> <li>• Alienor Ader [ECHO segment]</li> <li>• Stefania Paracchini</li> </ul>
		Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliana Olaizola, Head of International Operations Department</li> <li>• José Félix, Vice-president</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Léa Gauthier, Referent Humanitarian Advocacy [focal point]</li> <li>• Louise Bichet, RP MENA AmLat</li> <li>• Laurent Bacos, Head of Public and Institutional Funding</li> </ul>	Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valentin Grunwald, Network Advocacy Coordinator [general coordination]</li> </ul>
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## Focal topics & actions by MdM

Access to healthcare in crisis settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through MdM-ES panellist in the session 'The impact of the Russia's war on healthcare provision in Ukraine'.</li> <li>• Through interventions from the floor during the session on Rohingya and on Security of Humanitarian Workers.</li> <li>• Through participation of MdM-FR (Helena) to sideline briefing of the BE MoFa on the situation in Palestine.</li> </ul>
Safeguarding of humanitarian space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through MdM-FR preparatory work with participating partners aiming at influencing the discussions during the panel on sanctions.</li> <li>• Through the participation of MdM-FR as a speaker in the partner's segment session on the impacts of sanctions and counterterrorism measures.</li> </ul>
Prevention of GBV in emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through MdM-BE intervention from the floor during the plenary session 'The hidden cost of conflict: addressing sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo'</li> </ul>

## Resume

### In general:

- EHF is growing platform for exchange and networking; mainly with other NGO. No place for decision making but interesting platform for influence ahead of the forum, in the preparation phases.

- Increased presence by MdM (13 MdM representatives this year)
- The presence of key actors from agencies and governments represents an opportunity for bilateral meetings (not fully exploited this year).
- Not a lot of health-related topics on the agenda.
- See here evaluation of EHF [by Voice](#) and [by the New Humanitarian](#)

### **What worked well for MdM at the forum?**

- Internal coordination has improved in comparison to last year. Biggest challenge: need for clear and in time communication by participating chapter their engagement and objectives for the EHF.
- Bilateral contact ahead of the forum with organizers was key to ensure MdM-presence: e.g. participation to panel, intervention from the floor. Indeed, MdM was only asked to participate to one panel without this specific intervention. This bilateral contact was key to ensure MdM's intervention from the floor at plenary session on DRC and GBV, which generated a lot of visibility.
- Contact with partner organizations to jointly promote key messages: e.g. cooperation on sanctions panel, protection of humanitarian workers panel.
- Interventions from the floor at panel discussions/humanitarian talks are an opportunity for visibility but are not always easy due to lack of time for Q&A and to lack of clear responsibility of who should take the micro.

### **What could be done better?**

- Influence programs of future events: We should try to advocate in time to make sure that there are more health-related topics. For this, maintaining contacts with the organizers at ECHO and identifying key contacts at the EU Member state in charge of the organization is key.
- Internal coordination chapters: Uncertainty of chapters on if and how to they engage at the EHF made overall coordination challenging.
- Internal coordination chapters: Long internal approval processes by some chapters (e.g. for letters requesting more presence of health topics) prevented actions.



- Interventions from the floor: more information for all members of the delegation on opportunities to intervene (where, how). Also, better prepare interventions/questions from the floor (e.g. in cooperation with chapters not present at EHF).
- Bilateral meetings: We need to arrange more bilateral meetings. Lasting uncertainty on members of the MdM delegation prevented arrangements of high-level meetings, which need to be asked well in advance.
- Visibility of MdM: Need to increase social media communication to push visibility of MdM and its messages.