

HOW TO SUPPORT BOTTOM-UP COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN SYRIA

23rd of January 2017

From 9.00 to 12.30

at Marina Congress Center, Katajanokanlaituri 6, 00160 Helsinki

Crisis Management Initiative, Felm, Fida International, Finn Church Aid, Kehys, Kepa and Save the Children Finland are pleased to welcome you to a seminar on

How to Support Bottom-Up Community Resilience in Syria

As war-torn Syria is entering the 7th year of the protracted and devastating conflict, Finland will host the **UN Launch Event for the 2017 Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the 2017-2018 Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP)** in Helsinki on January 24, 2017. The launch will bring together a wide range of actors from the international community to address the development and humanitarian challenges of Syria and its neighboring countries.

To ensure that voices of the Syrian civil society are echoed in the Launch Event, **Finnish civil society actors are jointly organizing a side event titled How to Support Bottom-Up Community Resilience in Syria** on January 23, 2017. This broad-based platform of experts with first-hand experience on the ground strives to identify challenges and develop a consensus on supporting bottom-up community resilience in Syria. The recommendations from this event will be communicated to the UN Launch Event in close cooperation with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

AGENDA

9.00-9.30 Registration

9.30-9.40 Welcome by Mr. **Kai Mykkänen**, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development

9.40-10.30 Supporting Bottom-up Community Resilience in Syria – planning instruments and practical considerations

Chair and facilitator: **Sami Lahdensuo**, Senior Advisor to President Ahtisaari at Crisis Management Initiative

Key note speaker: **Helen Clark**, Administrator of the UNDP

Comment by **Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj**, Co-coordinator, Common Space Initiative

Discussion

10.30-10.45 Coffee break

10.45-12.30 Panel – Civil Society's Role in Building Stability - modalities for international support

Chair and facilitation: **Rilli Lappalainen**, Secretary General, The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU KEHYS, and **Matthias Wevelsiep**, Head - Programme Development Unit, Finn Church Aid

Lama Khaddour, civil society activist, Damascus

Zedoun Alzoubi, CEO, Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM)

Eva Zidan, Coordinator, Coordinamento delle organizzazioni per il servizio volontario of Italy (COSV)

Roy Azar, Project Coordinator, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

Alexandra Saieh, Syria Crisis Policy and Campaigns Advisor, Oxfam

Samuel Rizk, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme

Discussion

Concluding Remarks: recommendations for improved coordinated action

Kristiina Rintakoski, Director, Peacebuilding and Advocacy, Felm - Suomen Lähetysseura

Mathieu Rouquette, Syria INGO Regional Forum Representative (SIRF)

Sirpa Mäenpää, Ambassador, Peace Mediation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland