Basic information

2023/2000(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
How to build an innovative humanitarian aid strategy: spotlight on current and forgotten crises **Subject** 6.50 Emergency, food, humanitarian aid, aid to refugees, Emergency Aid Reserve	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development	ZORRINHO Carlos (S&D)	28/02/2023
	Shadow rapporteur ANDREWS Barry (Renew) MARQUARDT Erik (Greens/EFA) KEMPA Beata (ECR) ZIMNIOK Bernhard (ID) URBÁN CRESPO Miguel (The Left) COMÍN I OLIVERES Antoni (NI)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
International Cooperation and Development	URPILAINEN Jutta

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/01/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/10/2023	Vote in committee		
31/10/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0321/2023	Summary
21/11/2023	Debate in Parliament		
23/11/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0437/2023	Summary

23/11/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/2000(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/9/11073

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE749.020	14/06/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE751.780	19/07/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE753.660	17/10/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0321/2023	31/10/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0437/2023	23/11/2023	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)25	22/03/2024	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
ZORRINHO Carlos	Rapporteur	DEVE	09/11/2023	CARE International Aisbl Norwegian Refugee Council Europe OXFAM INTERNATIONAL EU ADVOCACY OFFICE Plan International EU office
ZORRINHO Carlos	Rapporteur	DEVE	25/09/2023	voice
ZORRINHO Carlos	Rapporteur	DEVE	31/05/2023	UNRWA
ZORRINHO Carlos	Rapporteur	DEVE	22/05/2023	Caritas Africa

ZORRINHO Carlos	Rapporteur	DEVE	30/03/2023	Voice
GONZÁLEZ Mónica Silvana	Rapporteur	DEVE	13/10/2022	Caritas Europa VOICE ALLIANCE2015
GONZÁLEZ Mónica Silvana	Rapporteur	DEVE	13/10/2022	UNHCR
GONZÁLEZ Mónica Silvana	Rapporteur	DEVE	08/09/2022	CARE International Aisbl International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

How to build an innovative humanitarian aid strategy: spotlight on current and forgotten crises

2023/2000(INI) - 31/10/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Development adopted the own-initiative report by Carlos ZORRINHO (S&D, PT) on how to build an innovative humanitarian aid strategy: spotlight on current and forgotten crises.

Humanitarian needs are at an all-time high and are growing at an unprecedented speed, with 339 million people estimated to be in need in 2023 compared to 274 million in 2022. The gap between global humanitarian needs and the resources allocated to meet them continues to widen. The EU, together with its Member States and the United States account for the vast majority of global funding for humanitarian aid. The EU's humanitarian budget for 2023 has been set at EUR 1.7 billion, which is far from sufficient to continue keeping up with the EU's commitments as one of the world's leading donors. There are striking imbalances in funding between humanitarian appeals, reflecting the fact that more crises are being forgotten.

The report stated that there is no universally agreed official definition of a 'forgotten crisis'. The term 'forgotten crisis' is often used to describe humanitarian crises that receive limited attention and media coverage, are often overshadowed by other emergencies or ongoing conflicts, or that fail to generate an international response despite the severity of the situation and its impact on affected populations. The Commission allocates at least 15 % of its initial annual humanitarian budget to forgotten crises and has led by example in ensuring there is no diversion of aid in the light of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Innovative structural solutions are needed to address global humanitarian challenges and ensure that the humanitarian system is more agile, prepared for and responsive to humanitarian crises. These solutions should focus the following:

Funding

Members urgently called on the Commission and the Member States to substantially increase their humanitarian aid budgets – without compromising their development budgets – to respond to humanitarian needs, which are at a record high. They reiterated their call on the Member States to allocate a fixed share of 0.7 % of their gross national incomes to official development assistance (ODA). They called on the Member States to set ambitious targets and create roadmaps for gradually increasing ODA to meet the final target of 10 %.

The report called for the revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) to include a substantial increase in the humanitarian aid budget to match the new humanitarian landscape and needs, including the specific needs of women and girls. Members are concerned that the funds earmarked for external crises under the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) were already exhausted in the first quarter of 2023. In this regard, they suggested splitting the SEAR into two separate parts, reflecting the internal and external dimensions, and equipping each part with adequate funding. Parliament and the Council are called on to substantially increase the humanitarian aid instrument in the context of the 2024 annual budget.

The committee underlined the important role of civil society, humanitarian organisations and local partners in identifying needs and delivering humanitarian aid directly to those in need.

The triple nexus

The report noted that the triple nexus is key to addressing the underlying causes and context-specific needs in complex and protracted crises and to building resilience to future crises. It is stressed that poverty, conflict, instability and forced displacement are closely related phenomena that must be addressed in a coherent and comprehensive manner. Members insisted on more nexus-specific funding, transparency, visibility, coordination and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders when applying the triple nexus approach, including through better involvement of local actors.

People-centred approach

While stressing the importance of building human resilience by enhancing protection, Members called for efforts to enhance local and sustainable agricultural and food production by promoting agro-ecological methods and sustainable fisheries to increase food availability and prevent dependence on external supplies in times of humanitarian crises. They highlighted the role and importance of local formal and informal civil society organisations in the humanitarian response.

Enabling environment

The Commission is called on to:

- develop a humanitarian diplomacy strategy together with the Member States, ensuring a more systematic and coordinated approach to humanitarian diplomacy;

- establish a European Centre for Humanitarian Research and Innovation, bringing together experts from academia and practitioners to foster innovation in the humanitarian sector, notably on access to new sources of finance.

Role of media

The report underlined the critical role of media in raising awareness of crises and generating public support for crisis response. Media organisations should not abandon coverage of conflicts, even if they are deemed ‘prolonged’ 'or ‘forgotten’, as continued reporting is essential for keeping the international community informed, maintaining pressure on relevant stakeholders and supporting efforts towards conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

How to build an innovative humanitarian aid strategy: spotlight on current and forgotten crises

2023/2000(INI) - 23/11/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 432 votes to 33, with 98 abstentions, a resolution on how to build an innovative humanitarian aid strategy: spotlight on current and forgotten crises.

The gap between global humanitarian needs and the resources allocated to meet them continues to widen. In 2022, the funding gap was USD 23 billion, with only 55 % of global needs covered. The EU, together with its Member States and the United States account for the vast majority of global funding for humanitarian aid.

The Commission allocates at least 15 % of its initial annual humanitarian budget to forgotten crises meaning humanitarian crises that receive limited attention and media coverage, are often overshadowed by other emergencies or ongoing conflicts.

Innovative structural solutions are needed to address global humanitarian challenges and ensure that the humanitarian system is more agile, prepared for and responsive to humanitarian crises. These solutions should focus the following:

Funding

Members urgently called on the Commission and the Member States to substantially **increase their humanitarian aid budgets** – without compromising their development budgets – to respond to humanitarian needs, which are at a record high. They reiterated their call on the Member States to allocate a fixed share of **0.7 %** of their gross national incomes to official development assistance (ODA). They called on the Member States to set ambitious targets and create roadmaps for gradually increasing ODA to meet the final target of **10 %**.

The resolution called for the revision of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) to include a substantial increase in the humanitarian aid budget to match the new humanitarian landscape and needs, including the specific needs of women and girls.

Members are concerned that the funds earmarked for external crises under the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) were already exhausted in the first quarter of 2023. In this regard, they suggested splitting the SEAR into two separate parts, reflecting the internal and external dimensions, and equipping each part with adequate funding. Any reinforcement of the SEAR should be complementary to and not substitutive of the humanitarian aid budgetary line.

Parliament and the Council are called on to substantially increase the humanitarian aid instrument in the context of the 2024 annual budget.

The resolution underlined the important role of civil society, humanitarian organisations and local partners in identifying needs and delivering humanitarian aid directly to those in need.

The triple nexus

Parliament noted that the triple nexus is key to addressing the underlying causes and context-specific needs in complex and protracted crises and to building resilience to future crises. It underlined that poverty, conflict, instability and forced displacement are closely related phenomena that must be addressed in a coherent and comprehensive manner. Members insisted on more nexus-specific funding, transparency, visibility, coordination and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders when applying the triple nexus approach, including through better involvement of local actors.

Climate justice

Members called for climate funding to be scaled up in order to prevent, mitigate and respond to the alarming impact of climate change on humanitarian crises. They called for donors and Member States to adopt and implement the humanitarian aid donors’ declaration on climate and the environment by increasing their funding for disaster prevention, preparedness, anticipatory action, and response.

People-centred approach

While stressing the importance of building human resilience by enhancing protection, Members called for efforts to enhance local and sustainable agricultural and food production by promoting agro-ecological methods and sustainable fisheries to increase food availability and prevent dependence on external supplies in times of humanitarian crises. They highlighted the role and importance of local formal and informal civil society organisations in the humanitarian response.

Enabling environment

Parliament insisted on the need to reinforce the centrality of and respect for international humanitarian law, international human rights law and humanitarian principles in the EU's external action.

The Commission is called on to:

- develop a humanitarian diplomacy strategy together with the Member States, ensuring a more systematic and coordinated approach to humanitarian diplomacy;

- establish a European Centre for Humanitarian Research and Innovation, bringing together experts from academia and practitioners to foster innovation in the humanitarian sector, notably on access to new sources of finance.

Role of media

The resolution underlined the critical role of media in raising awareness of crises and generating public support for crisis response. Media organisations should not abandon coverage of conflicts, even if they are deemed 'prolonged' 'or 'forgotten', as continued reporting is essential for keeping the international community informed, maintaining pressure on relevant stakeholders and supporting efforts towards conflict resolution and peacebuilding.