Together the EU and EU Member States make up the world’s foremost humanitarian donor. However, global humanitarian spending hardly covers half of actual needs, and the number of people in need increases daily, due to man-made or environmental crises. Humanitarian policy is not only about money: the rise of terrorism, non-state conflicts or climate change put its tools, techniques and values at stake. This month, the first ever United Nations World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) will try to address the main challenges faced by public, non-governmental or private stakeholders, such as the need for better coordination of humanitarian agencies, local beneficiary participation, or new sources of funding. In the following series of short papers, the EPRS scans today’s humanitarian landscape to summarise the main challenges that will be discussed during the WHS. With a reminder of the EU system for comparison, we also move the focus toward other players: we examine the humanitarian policy of traditional actors (Japan, the United States) as well as lesser-known newcomers (the African Union, Brazil, China, the Gulf States Russia); we also take a look at Turkey's humanitarian policy, as host country of the WHS, to which the EU has decided to entrust the fate of thousands of refugees.

**Funding gap: a challenge for the World Humanitarian Summit**

Briefing by Alina Dobreva and Marta Latek, May 2016

The exponential growth of people trapped in long-term crisis has deepened the discrepancy between humanitarian needs and available funding. The European Parliament in recent resolutions stressed the need for ‘globally coordinated, timely predictable and flexible funding’. The High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, co-chaired by European Commission Vice-President Georgieva, comes with several proposals to be considered by the WHS, such as innovative financing and more efficient use of money e.g. local involvement or result-oriented funding.

**World Humanitarian Summit 2016**

At-a-glance note by Marta Latek, May 2016

The first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), on 23 and 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey, will bring together a panoply of representatives of world governments, business, and civil society, of whom a number of MEPs in order to find a way to improve humanitarian responses to increasingly challenging conditions. The paper presents the EU’s priorities for the summit. [DE, ES, FR, IT, PL versions and an EPRS podcast on this topic are available.]

**Traditional donors**

**Japan’s humanitarian assistance**

At-a-glance note by Enrico D’Ambrogio, May 2016

The fifth largest donor of humanitarian aid underlines the importance of strengthening coordination between humanitarian and development assistance.

**United States humanitarian aid policy**

At-a-glance note by Ionel Zamfir, May 2016

The biggest state provider of humanitarian assistance in the world has a complex governmental structure for the provision of this aid that delivers a vast array of measures.

**Emerging players**

**The African Union’s humanitarian policy**

At-a-glance note by Eric Pichon, May 2016

The African Union has developed a framework outlining innovative humanitarian principles and tools to prevent and mitigate crises.
Brazil’s humanitarian policy
At-a-glance note by Elena Lazarou, May 2016
Brazil has been referred to as an emerging player in humanitarian policy, yet the recent economic crisis raises doubts as to its ability to sustain its contributions.

China’s humanitarian aid policy and practice
At-a-glance note by Gisela Grieger, May 2016
China has shifted away from an approach predominantly determined by ideology and geopolitical considerations, towards a more pragmatic humanitarian aid policy.

Humanitarian policy of the Gulf states
At-a-glance note by Marta Latek, May 2016
The Gulf States’ increased humanitarian spending is a means to counter criticism against their asylum policy and alleged laxity towards financing of terrorism, and part of a foreign policy strategy.

Russia’s humanitarian policy
At-a-glance note by Martin Russel, May 2016
Russia has re-emerged as a donor of humanitarian aid. However, its contributions remain modest might serve geopolitical rather than humanitarian objectives.

Turkish humanitarian policy
At-a-glance note by Philippe Perchoc, May 2016
Over the last 10 years, Turkey has become a leading emerging donor. Most of Turkey’s official development assistance goes to humanitarian aid, above all in support of Syrian refugees.

Further reading

How the EU budget is spent: Humanitarian Aid
Briefing by Alina Dobreva and Anika Heinmaa, November 2015
A leading global donor and an example for high standards of humanitarian aid delivery, the EU faces challenges due to the growing demand for humanitarian assistance worldwide.

Protecting civilians in armed conflict: International framework and challenges
Briefing by Cristina Cîrlig, January 2016
The vast majority of casualties in today’s armed conflicts are civilians. The EU strongly supports international humanitarian principles and the recent concept of R2P (Responsibility to Protect).

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