



COVID-19 IMPACT ON HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS

Webinar Report
14 May 2020

BACKGROUND, AGENDA AND SPEAKERS

COVID - 19 Impact on Humanitarian Systems

UN75TALK WEBINAR // 14 May 2020
14:00 - 15:30



UN75 - 57Kuwait talk Series **2**

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Introduction

The world faces a public health emergency with the spread of the Coronavirus among 213 countries, areas or territories. This has called for global and national coordinated humanitarian efforts, including in countries with existing emergency needs. The UN secretary General, Antonio Guterres, has warned that the pandemic is the biggest crisis since WWII, and on 25th March 2020, the UN launched a nine-month inter-agency Global Humanitarian Response Plan that responds to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Locally, an emergency fund to combat the Coronavirus has been created with over 53 m KWD raised to date. Humanitarian actors have also responded to direct emergency needs towards vulnerable local groups that have been affected by the ongoing crisis.



Speakers

Dr. Tarek Elsheikh



UNSG Representative
Resident Coordinator,
Kuwait

Amb. Naser Alhayan



Assistant Foreign Minister
for International
Organizations Affairs

Dr. Hilal AlSayer



President of Kuwait
Red Crescent Society

Amb. Cristian Tudor



European Union Head
of Delegation, Kuwait

Dr. Ibrahim El-Ziq



Regional Director for the
Gulf of WHO

Dr. Samer Haddadin



UNHCR Representative
in Kuwait

Dr. Iyad Nasr



Head of OCHA Regional
Office for MENA

Expected Outcomes:



Moderated by
Nour Al-Qattan,
Humanitarian Affairs
Officer, OCHA Kuwait

- The emerging humanitarian challenges with the spread of the pandemic, and the coordinated Regional and local humanitarian response.
- The impact COVID-19 has on regional vulnerable communities and on delivering life-saving assistance in humanitarian settings.
- State of Kuwait and EU's support to UN COVID-19 humanitarian response and WHO response plans

AGENDA



14:00 - 14:10



➤ Opening Session

- Introduction by Ms. Nour Al-Qattan, Moderator, OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer
- Opening remarks by Dr. Tarek Elsheikh, UNSG Representative Resident Coordinator, Kuwait
- Remarks by H.E. Amb. Naser AlHayen, Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs, MOFA

14:10 - 14:25



➤ Local Efforts

- KRCS's Humanitarian Response to COVID-19, by H.E. Dr. Hilal Al-Sayer, President of Kuwait Red Crescent Society
- Q&A

14:25 - 14:40



➤ UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan

- COVID-19 GHRP Update and the Regional Coordinated Humanitarian Response, by Dr. Iyad Nasr, Head of OCHA Regional Office for MENA
- Q&A

14:40 - 14:55



➤ COVID-19 and the Public Health System

- WHO's Response Plan and Impact of Kuwait and Donors' Contributions, by Dr. Ibrahim El-Ziq, WHO Regional Representative for the Gulf States
- Q&A

15:55 - 15:30



➤ Supporting Vulnerable Communities

- EU's Support to Regional Humanitarian Efforts and Partnerships with International Organisations, by H.E. Ambassador Cristian Tudor, European Union Head of Delegation in Kuwait
- Effect of COVID-19 on Refugee Humanitarian Response, by Dr. Samer Haddadin, UNHCR Representative in Kuwait
- Q&A
- Concluding Remarks

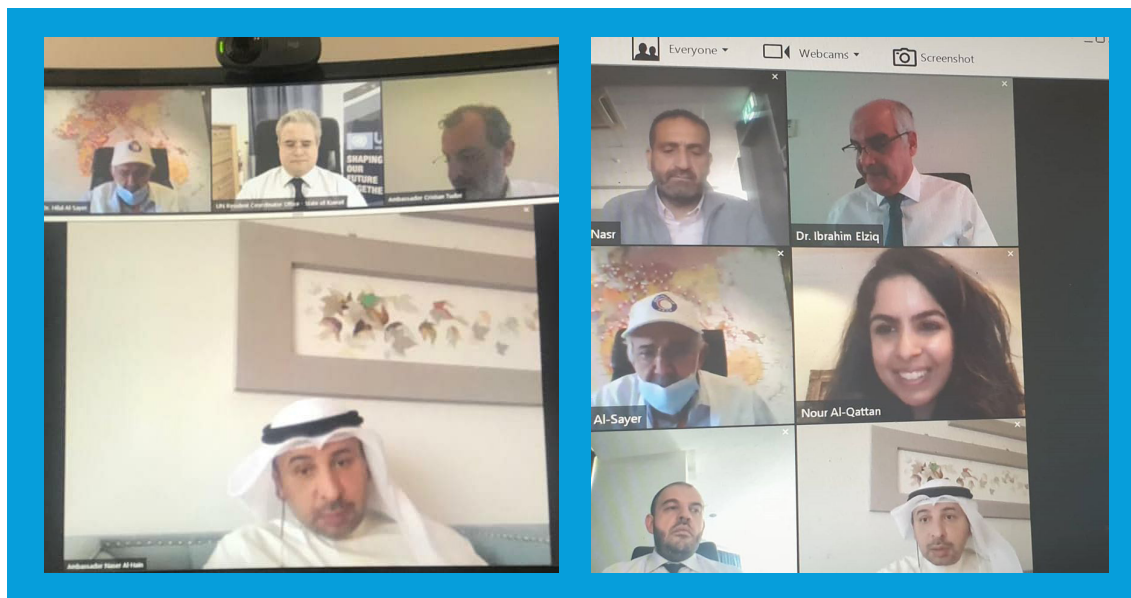


The Webinar will be conducted by using GoToWebinar through this link:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3593362736013639691>

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SUMMARY

-The UN in Kuwait organized a Webinar-based UN Talk on “COVID-19 Impact on Humanitarian Systems” a partnership between the UN Resident Coordinator Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in collaboration with OCHA, WHO, UNHCR, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and EU Delegation in Kuwait.



-The Webinar was attended by 116 people (Registered 116, Opened Invitation 1690; Clicked Registration Link 269), with attendance from and interactive discussions between UN agencies, governmental partners, the diplomatic community, and NGOs.

-Humanitarian access, growing risk of gender-based violence, food insecurity, and protection of most vulnerable communities are all challenges that the international community should collectively be addressing.

-Key messages from the UN Talk were: (1) the importance of having a coordinated humanitarian response to COVID-19; (2) the urgent need of addressing public health, humanitarian and economic implications, and; (3) the impact of donor contributions on the humanitarian community.

Substantive information was shared by our valued partners in Kuwait about the progress in humanitarian support and efforts locally, regionally and globally.

MEDIA COVERAGE

PRESS RELEASE



Press Release

The United Nations in Kuwait and Kuwait Foreign Ministry host virtual UN Talk on “COVID-19 Impact on Humanitarian Systems”

14 May 2020, Kuwait City – The United Nations in Kuwait and the Kuwait Foreign Ministry hosted a UN talk to further highlight the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and global humanitarian response efforts.

“Today’s virtual event was a unique opportunity for experts in their fields to speak collaboratively on what has fast become one of the greatest challenges of our time,” said Dr Tarek El-Sheikh, the United Nations Resident Coordinator to Kuwait. “This virus knows no borders. We are only as strong as the weakest health system and countries need to look beyond their own borders in tackling this.”

“Extraordinary measures are needed. It can’t be business as usual,” said Ambassador Naser Alhayen, Kuwait’s Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Affairs. “We must come together in both solidarity and self-interest to respond to this crisis.”

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 4 million cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed worldwide and nearly 300,000 deaths. Experts believe the most devastating and destabilizing effects will be felt in the world’s poorest countries, where there is already evidence of incomes plummeting, jobs disappearing, food supplies falling and prices soaring, and children missing vaccinations and meals. Unless urgent action is taken now, the plight of those most vulnerable, including refugees and those fleeing conflict and persecution, will likely worsen.

“If wealthy countries with strong health systems are buckling under the pressure of COVID-19 outbreaks, imagine what will happen in countries in the midst of deep humanitarian crises due to war, natural disasters and climate change,” Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and one of the speakers at today’s event said.

On 7 May, the UN launched its updated COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), a \$6.7 billion appeal to protect millions of lives and stem the spread of coronavirus in fragile countries. The COVID-19 GHRP is the international community’s primary fundraising vehicle to respond to the humanitarian impacts of the virus in low- and middle-income countries and support their efforts to fight it.

“It is worth mentioning that today coincides with the fifty-seventh anniversary since the State of Kuwait joined the United Nations. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Kuwait Leadership for a solid and lifelong partnership in peacebuilding, humanitarian support, development, and friendship for the United Nations which celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary since its creation, this year,” Dr Tarek El-Sheikh noted.

Today’s event was organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) within the UN Resident Coordinator Office UN75-57 Kuwait series, in collaboration with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the WHO, and in partnership with KRCS and the European Union Delegation in Kuwait.

For Media Inquiries:

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A press release was placed in the local media and a News report on national TV news to mark the event, can be accessed through the following links:

https://twitter.com/kuna_en/status/1261013496097050625?s=19

https://twitter.com/kuna_ar/status/1260987312135180296?s=19

<https://youtu.be/iFP8N3CpiZU>





The event was well covered on social media (Instagram, insta story and Twitter) throughout the session. please see the following links:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CAKttEsDiH6/>

<https://twitter.com/UNinKuwait/status/1260942267587715075>

<https://twitter.com/UNinKuwait/status/1260897046577532929>

<https://twitter.com/UNinKuwait/status/1260940429136220161>

<https://twitter.com/UNinKuwait/status/1260940947199844353>

<https://twitter.com/UNinKuwait/status/1260943153420480513>

<https://twitter.com/UNinKuwait/status/1260962327555424256>

<https://twitter.com/UNinKuwait/status/1260962880066932741>



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