Towards More Principled International Support
A Dialogue between Syrians and the International Community
Thursday, 31 March 2022

Agenda and Links
(All times are in CET)

09:00 – 9:30
Introduction

A Call for Dialogue: The Need to Reverse Dynamics and Engage with Syrians

Speakers:

- Bakri Zein - Chairman of Shaml Coalition for Syrian CSOs and Partnership Manager of Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS)
- Brigitte Curmi - Ambassador, Special Envoy to Syria, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of France
- Per Örnéus - Ambassador, Special Envoy to the Syria Crisis, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden
- Sawsan Abou Zainedin - Architect and Urban Development Planner, Researcher at the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

9:30 – 11:00
Session 1

A Decade of International Assistance to Syria: What Went Well and What Went Wrong

Moderator:

- Bassel Kaghadou - Expert in Public Communication, Aid Effectiveness and Peace Building; former Chief Technical Advisor and Head of the Strategic Policies and Programmes Unit at the National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) in UN-ESCWA and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

Speakers:

- Adeeb Ni’mah - Development Consultant
- Carsten Wieland - Political Consultant and Journalist specialized in Middle Eastern Affairs
- Henrike Trautmann - Acting Director for the Southern Neighbourhood and Turkey, DG NEAR, European Commission
Houda Atassi - Director of International Humanitarian Relief
Karam Sha’ar - Research Director of the Operations and Policy Center (OPC) and Non-Resident Scholar at the Middle East Institute
Mazen Gharibah - Executive Director of the Syrian British Council

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:30 Session 2 A

**Which Syrian Partners? Uncompromised Channels for Aid Delivery inside Syria**

**Moderator:**

_Hani Fakhani_ - Architect and Urban Development Practitioner, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Sakan Housing Communities, and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**Speakers:**

_Alaa Zaza_ - Education and Child protection Specialist and Team Lead of the Syria Education Programme with Chemonics

_Aula Abbara_ - Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Acute Medicine in London, Chair of the Syria Public Health Network and Research Lead for the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

_Jon Unruh_ - Professor, Department of Geography, McGill University

_Michael Köhler_ - Deputy Director-General, DG ECHO, European Commission

_Zobair Shwikh_ - Civil Society Activist, Coordinator of IMPACT in North-East Syria

**In parallel Session 2 B**

**Whose Recovery? Working on a Local Level and Maintaining National Ownership**

**Moderator:**

_Fadi Dayoub_ - Executive Director of Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS) and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**Speakers:**

_Avin Shekhmous_ - Manager of Ezdina Organisation, Board Member of the Civil Society Coalition in North-East Syria

_Julien Barnes-Dacey_ - Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

_Ryan Knox_ - Chief Technical Adviser and Head of Office at UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

_Munzer Alkhalil_ - Former Idlib Health Director, Lead Researcher on R4HSSS Project focusing on research for strengthening of health systems in North-West Syria
**Mustafa Alhamoud** - Director of Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS) in the northern and eastern countryside of Aleppo and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

**12:30 – 13:30**  
**Lunch break**

**13:30 – 14:45**  
Session 3 A  
**Accountable to Whom? On Upstream and Downstream Monitoring and Accountability**

**Moderator:**  
*Sama Kiki* - Executive Director of the Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)

**Speakers:**

*Zahra Albarazi* - Research Director, Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)  
*Sarah Kayyali* - Senior Syria Researcher, Human Rights Watch (HRW)  
*Natasha Hall* - Senior Fellow, Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

**In parallel**  
Session 3 B  
**High Time for Legitimate and Safe Financial Environment: Payment Channels and the Role of the Private Sector**

**Moderator:**  
*Ibrahim Olabi* - Lawyer at Guernica 37 and Founder of the Syrian Legal Development Programme (SLDP)

**Speakers:**

*Annette Frick* - First Secretary, Syria Team, Embassy of Germany in Lebanon  
*Assaad Al Achi* - Executive Director of Baytna Syria and Coordinator of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)  
*Rama Chakaki* - Co-founder of the VIP.fund and Board Member of the Syrian International Business Association (SIBA)  
*Samer Chamsi-Pasha* - Vice President of International Humanitarian Relief and Chairman of the Syrian International Business Association (SIBA)  
*Steven Heydemann* - Janet W. Ketcham 1953 Chair and Professor, Middle East Studies, Smith College, and Senior Nonresident Fellow, Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy

**14:45 – 15:00**  
**Break**
Can the Humanitarian-Development-Peacebuilding Nexus Offer a Way Forward?

**Moderator:**

*Yara Nseir* - M&E and Research Manager at Local Development and Small-Projects Support (LDSPS) and Board Member of Shami Coalition for Syrian CSOs

**Speakers:**

*Bassel Kaghadou* - Expert in Public Communication, Aid Effectiveness and Peace Building; former Chief Technical Advisor and Head of the Strategic Policies and Programmes Unit at the National Agenda for the Future of Syria (NAFS) in UN-ESCWA and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

*Daria Jamil* - Chief Development Officer, Basmeh and Zeitooneh

*Emma Beals* - Senior Advisor at the European Institute of Peace, Independent Consultant on Syria

*Rabie Nasser* - Economist, Researcher and Co-Founder of the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR)

16:30 – 17:15  
**Break - Preparation of recommendations and concluding remarks**

17:15 – 18:00  
**Concluding session - Making International Support to Syrians More Principled and Effective - Recommendations and Concluding Remarks**

**Speakers:**

*Assaad Al Achi* - Executive Director of Baytna Syria and Coordinator of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

*Carl Hallergard* - Director for Middle East and North Africa, European External Action Service (EEAS)

*Sawsan Abou Zainedin* - Architect and Urban Development Planner, Researcher at the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) and Member of the Syria Resource Group (SRG)

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