Workshop "Transformations in humanitarian access"

1- Main topics discussed?

- What has really changed in recent years? Are French ONG victims of these changes?

Little change in having access granted for relief, but the risk has shifted to French ONGs who have been penalised by the enactment of laws against terrorism.

- How far can discussions and negotiations go with other actors in the field?

We must submit to the sovereignty that some States have reaffirmed, just as informal groups who undermine the actions of NGOs, such as terrorists, must do.

- How can these risks be managed?

Tension between our need for visibility and ensuing surveillance. Our need to act vs. our dread of sanctions in a context of precautions and withdrawal.

2- Main recommendations?

- Look more at the strengths of French ONGs instead of feeling victimized.
- Leave action and development aside to make room for strategy and innovation.
- Accept reality and adapt by thinking "out of the box" without losing sight of our objectives
- Accept our responsibilities and encourage our interlocutors to do likewise.

3- Looking further?

- Stronger coordination between French NGOs to denounce, explain, influence
- Have laws enforced whatever may be the priorities for security.

Workshop "Personal commitment and citizen involvement"

1- Main topics discussed?

- Conduct a self-diagnosis based on our mistakes, as well as on our successes and our strengths.
- How can we become again channels of transmission for each other, and how can we effectively connect to civil societies of the South (NGOs, social movements, and especially population groups)?

2- Main recommendations?

- Accept the loss of control
- Improve governance and diversity
- Collective action

Workshop "Innovations and Humanitarian Aid"

1- Main topics discussed?

- What is innovation? Technical, organisational, transformational, R&D, etc.
- Why do we innovate? To adapt to tomorrow's challenges and to justify our existence
- Who innovates? NGOs vs the scientific sector, start-ups, businesses, etc.
- How do we innovate? Top-down (strategy) vs bottom-up (participative approach)
- What are the means allocated to innovation? Tension between the means allocated to conformity vs to operations

2- Main recommendations?

- Work in association with other actors and plan collectively for innovation
- Make innovation part of an overall strategy: the best way to respond to the duty to humanity
- Promote in-house innovation as a lever for building loyalty and motivating staff
- Instill a feeling and a state of mind for innovation and prepare personnel for future changes

3- Looking further?

- Not only innovate on "doing" but especially on "being". Challenge the very existence of NGOs.
- Reposition ourselves away from acting as intermediaries between donors and beneficiaries.
- Move from mediating function (vertical model) towards a service provider function based on expertise (horizontal model) where everyone can have their say.
- Question how "human" will fit in tomorrow's humanitarianism.

Workshop "Alliances, coalitions, and pooling of resources: wishful thinking or a must?"

Pooling means the optimization of resources, goods, and means of transport through sharing.

- Why pooling? Efficiency, optimisation, impact. To go straight to the heart of the matter, to reach those who are the most vulnerable. While the private sector is not allowed to pool, donors and the humanitarian sector can.
- A review of the concept, "coopetition", a model combining cooperation and competition.
- Twelve aspects of pooling and four large pooling projects:
  - Training – presented by Gilles Collard (Bioforce) and Joël Weiler (Médecins du Monde)
  - Shared logistics – presented RLH (11 organisations) and ACF
  - Research in knowledge, monitoring, and evaluation – presented by Véronique de Geoffroy (Groupe URD)
  - Sharing of structural costs – presented by Manuel Patrouillard (HI)
- Two other pooling projects:
  - Expatriate taxation presented by Coordination Sud
  - Alliance Urgence already has six member organisations