

BRUSSELS VII CONFERENCE – SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SYRIA AND THE REGION

DAMASCUS-BASED INGO FORUM (DINGO) - SIDE EVENT

THE SYRIAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE: LESSONS LEARNED AND WAY FORWARD

- **Organizer:** Damascus-based INGO Forum (DINGO);
- **Date and Location:** Monday, 12 June 2023, from 4:00pm to 5.30pm. The event will have a hybrid modality, both F2F at Mundo J, Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000 Brussels, [Google Maps Link](#) and Online at this [Link](#). *Registration Form* available [here](#);
- **Speakers:** Claudia Oriolo (WeWorld-GVC Country Representative and DINGO Chair), Moutaz Adham (Oxfam Syria Country Director, DINGO member and SSG representative), and moderated by Louise Le Bret (DINGO Advocacy Coordinator);
- **Contacts:** Claudia Oriolo (syria@gvc.weworld.it) and Louise Le Bret (louise.lebret@drc.ngo).

As part of the Brussels VII Conference, the Damascus-based INGO Forum (DINGO) is organizing a side event to discuss on the outlook of the Syrian humanitarian crisis after the earthquake response. The objective is to reflect on lessons-learned based on real time review of programmatic and operational aspects of the response, coordination and access issues and testimonies from the field. These reflections aim to guide humanitarian actors to develop key recommendations based on achievements and challenges and collectively build a way forward.

The Damascus INGO forum (DINGO) is today composed of 33 active INGOs and represent more than 4,700 staff and volunteers/community based workers, majority of which are Syrian nationals (97%) with presence in the majority of governorates of the country. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake that hit Syria in February 6, 2023, DINGO agencies were able to promptly mobilise resources and respond to the emergency in Government-controlled areas (Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Lattakia). The earthquake has significantly deepened the hardship and suffering that the people of Syria have been enduring for years. Prior to the earthquake, humanitarian needs were already at the highest since the start of the crisis, with over 15 million people in need of assistance. At the same time, the overall humanitarian response was already critically underfunded with less than 50% of funding needed for the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) raised in 2022.

This Side Event aims to discuss the following key points:

- Overall humanitarian context before and after the earthquake, and how the earthquake amplified pre-existing needs, which are critical and require a principled and long-term response;
- Challenges and opportunities for humanitarian actors in Syria;
- Lessons learned from the earthquake response, and how INGOs and other humanitarian actors can build upon them in the way forward.

Panellists include representatives from the DINGO Forum operating in government-controlled areas of Syria. Views, thoughts and opinions expressed during these events reflect solely those of the speakers and do not constitute endorsement by the European Union.