

Market engagement session FCDO presentation

Good morning everyone, and thank you for joining us today for this market engagement session on developing a responsible AI framework for humanitarian action.

As you are all aware the rapid progress of artificial intelligence presents both extraordinary opportunities and significant challenges for humanitarian operations.

This work is critical for us as a donor to ensure humanitarian activities aligns with humanitarian principles and prioritizes the safety and dignity of affected populations.

It's also important to provide clarity for humanitarian actors to help understand how they can responsibly use tools.

This is why we're launching this initiative to develop an approach to responsible AI in humanitarian action. Let me emphasize three key principles that will guide this work:

First, we are committed to proportionality and practicality. Our aim is not to create an overly complex framework that sits on a shelf. Instead, we want to develop an approach that humanitarian actors can implement - something that enhances rather than hinders their ability to deliver assistance effectively. But also noting that some tools may have life changing impact and we should be confident they won't cause harm.

Second, we recognize that we shouldn't reinvent the wheel. Significant work on responsible AI is already happening across various sectors - from healthcare to the public sector. We want to build on these existing foundations, adapting and applying relevant approaches to the humanitarian context. This not only ensures cost-effectiveness but also allows us to benefit from proven practices and lessons learned.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, this framework must be developed collaboratively. We need insights from across the humanitarian ecosystem - from large international organizations to local NGOs, from technology providers to, affected communities themselves. Only through this breadth of perspectives can we create guidance that is truly relevant and effective.

The call for proposals sets out possible steps this work could take. They are intended to be illustrative, you all, no doubt will have your own perspectives on how we can deliver this work.

As you will see the Call for Proposals does not provide detailed specifications, but instead broad objectives accompanied by an illustrative approach to delivery. We know that many of you have been thinking seriously about work like this and we are keen to hear your perspectives on how best to deliver this in the proposal.

We're looking for partners who can bring together expertise in humanitarian operations, research capabilities, and technical AI knowledge. The successful team will need to demonstrate AI technical

competence, but also an understanding of humanitarian principles and operational realities.

This is pretty new field, so we're aware that not all organisations will have all those skills. We've therefore allocated the next hour to help you share information about you (or your organisation) and learn about different potential partners that you could work with. Hopefully this will build relationships in the sector, beyond this call for proposals.