United Nations ✺ Nations Unies

Reference: ICT4Peace Support   Today's Date: July 24, 2013
to COD/FOD project

Dear Ambassador Stauffacher,

I am writing to thank the ICT4Peace Foundation for its support of key information management initiatives for the humanitarian community: the Common and Fundamental Operational Datasets (COD/FOD) Registry project and the efforts to involved volunteer and technical communities (V&TC) in humanitarian action.

As you know, in June of 2013, the Registry was migrated to the Humanitarian Response platform (http://cod.humanitarianresponse.info). The original site, developed and hosted with funding from ICT4Peace since 2011, was always intended to be a temporary home for the Registry until the Humanitarian Response web platform became available. We felt strongly that it was critical to make these datasets more widely available to support the nascent efforts to standardize humanitarian operational data. The datasets hosted on the registry are key geographic and demographic datasets that are critical for humanitarian actors responding to a crisis.

Two years later, I'm happy to report that the impact of the Registry has been significant in focusing the attention of both OCHA and our partners on the importance of common reference data in humanitarian crises. These datasets now form the basis for a shared understanding of humanitarian needs and the collective response to those needs.

Now that the Registry has been made a part HumanitarianResponse.info, ICT4Peace is no longer directly supporting the website, however, your continued support, through various fora, of the efforts to standardize and exchange humanitarian data is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to our future work together. In this arena, ICT4Peace has already provided key support for the Humanitarian Exchange Language (HXL) to the broader UN community through the Crisis Information Management Advisory Group (CiMAG), and technical advice to the project through partnership with ETH. In the coming year, your participation in the governance structure for OCHA's Data and Analysis Project (which includes HXL) will be particularly important as we scale up these data inititiatives.

We have been very appreciative of ICT4Peace's ongoing support to the V&TC with specific financial support to enable the Digital Humanitarian Network (DHN) simulation last October in Washington D.C. Such events, especially for geographically distributed volunteer-based entities, can be a great event to form and build stronger relationships in the communities thereby enabling more and faster collaboration in

future emergencies. We look forward to your continued support to the DHN particularly in regards to a potential DHN Summit this Novembers.

As always, ICT4Peace's strategic guidance on matters ranging from the DHN to thematic Communities-of-Interest (e.g. Decision Makers Needs, DHN and Impact Evaluation) continues to be valuable to both OCHA and the wider humanitarian community.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Dalton,
Chief, a.i.
Information Services Branch