



## Workshop on Advancing the Ambition of the Agenda for Humanity 12 December 2017, UN New York, Conference Room 11

### BACKGROUND AND UPDATE ON INITIATIVES

In preparation for the workshop on “Advancing the Ambition of the Agenda for Humanity” on 12 December, below is a short description and update on some of the initiatives that will have representatives participating in the workshop. The information below has been sourced from participants and/ or *No Time to Retreat: First annual synthesis report on progress since the World Humanitarian Summit* <https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/report2017>

#### Charter for Change

Charter for Change was established in response to the call during the pre-Summit consultations for international organizations to change their own way of working so that southern-based national actors can play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response. Thirty international NGOs have now signed the Charter and 160 national NGOs have endorsed it.

According to the Charter for Change progress report, *From Commitments to Action: Progress Report 2016-2017* (2017), signatories are beginning to report change in five key areas:

- **Funding:** Sixteen out of 29 signatories reported passing between 4 and 88 per cent of funding directly to national NGOs, with most already meeting the target of 20 per cent.
- **Partnerships:** All signatories reported that their strategies and principles were in line with the Principles of Partnership, or that adaptations were underway.
- **Communications:** Twenty signatories reported already promoting local partners’ roles in the media, or updating their communication policies and strategies accordingly.
- **Human Resources:** Four signatories are working with the CHS Alliance and the START Network to promote sector-wide changes in human resources and recruitment practices, others have committed to explore how they are to offer fair compensation when hiring local staff in emergencies and to develop ethical guidelines.
- **Advocacy:** Several signatories reported advocating to donors to promote the localization agenda and to make passing money to national actors a funding criteria indicator.

Looking ahead to May 2018, signatories have identified areas to seek further progress including: better measurement (at the individual and collective level) of the impact of these changes on operational practices and the wider humanitarian system; increased leadership by national actors to shape humanitarian eco-systems; and further changes to donor funding policies.

#### Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Over 160 stakeholders have endorsed the Charter for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, with the number of signatories increasing by 45 per cent after its launch at the World Humanitarian Summit. The Charter identifies five core principles: non-discrimination, participation, inclusive policy, inclusive response and services, and cooperation and coordination.



Following the launch, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee established a task team to develop guidelines for humanitarian actors, States and affected communities by the end of 2018.

Including persons with disabilities requires a fundamental rethinking of the way humanitarian actors work: policies, practices, processes and assumptions. This shift entails building capacity of disabled persons' organizations, ensuring inclusive coordination of field response plans, expanding disaggregated data collection, and exploring opportunities for innovation.

### **Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) on Quality and Accountability**

The Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) on Quality and Accountability, has the potential to change how humanitarian actors and communities and people affected by crisis interact leading to a more effective and efficient humanitarian response. It does this by using common language that enables all actors involved in humanitarian response to understand what accountability looks like.

<https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/files/files/Core%20Humanitarian%20Standard%20-%20English.pdf>. The CHS provides a common reference framework - Nine commitments, each with a set of Key Actions and Organisational Responsibilities and can be applied by both National/local and International organizations. It was designed as a verifiable standard and as part of the CHS Verification Scheme, the CHS Alliance has developed a self-assessment tool (which includes a localisation index) that enables CHS Alliance members to measure their application of the CHS. <http://www.chsalliance.org/what-we-do/verification/self-assessment>.

### **Education Cannot Wait**

The Education Cannot Wait (ECW) aims to reach all crisis-affected children and youth with safe, free and quality education by 2030 by increasing shared political, operational and financial commitments to education for children in crises.

ECW is promoting access to quality education for 3.5 million children, including 1.4 million girls, and supporting 19,000 teachers in 14 countries (Syria, Chad, Ethiopia, Yemen, Peru, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Somalia, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Uganda, Lebanon, Bangladesh and Nepal). Allocated grants total USD 78.5 million, half of which have been disbursed.

### **Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation**

The Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation (GAHI) has a single task: to help bring innovations to scale in the humanitarian system. It works by 1) convening the humanitarian community around specific outcomes; 2) securing political signals that create space for experimentation; and 3) facilitating the collection of evidence that enables change and impact at scale. It also seeks to develop collective frameworks for ethical innovation. In 2016, GAHI supported the Global Prioritization Exercise and its own stakeholder scoping to determine priorities; and is working to recruit its first Director in 2017. GAHI is seed-funded by Australia, the United Kingdom, Denmark and the Netherlands.



### Global Alliance for Urban Crises

The Global Alliance for Urban Crises was created due to the trend of rapid urbanization and the need for the humanitarian system to respond accordingly. Since the Summit, its membership has grown to over 65 humanitarian and development agencies, academic bodies, networks of municipal authorities and professional institutes representing architects, engineers and planners. Working groups were established in March 2017, bringing together key actors around initiatives, working together to adapt humanitarian response to an urban world. Among other achievements, collaboration through the broader membership helped to influence the Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda to recognize the dimension of humanitarian response in urban areas.

### Global Mentoring Initiative & Navigation360 work on 'localisation'

- A baseline study of where the Start Fund was at regarding localisation, resulting in a structuring of the several dimensions of localisation (Nov 2016-April 2017). <https://start-network.app.box.com/s/3hs09ryakami7n8hjliaruaaw9ycir4r>, <https://start-network.app.box.com/s/0dpqfmx8c3yfh6pcpmyjkocqm26srr3z>, Field study carried out in Bangladesh - <https://start-network.app.box.com/s/x93k4mxq3if1munxxbdxpe2fkk5zib61>
- Action-research study for the Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme of the Start Network, testing and refining the localisation framework developed in the earlier research, and exploring how the capacity-strengthening projects of this DEPP programme have contributed to aspects of localisation. GMI testing out the framework in Ethiopia and Bangladesh. DEPP staff testing the framework in Pakistan, DRC, Kenya and the Philippines.
- 'Understanding the Localisation Debate', a paper unpacking and exploring the various factors contributing to the confusion of the localisation debate. Available at [www.gmentor.org/localization](http://www.gmentor.org/localization)
- Introducing the Grand Bargain as a key reference, in a summative evaluation of different aspects of the Dutch Relief Alliance: i.e. how, in its Alliance functioning and particularly in its responses to various emergencies, is the Dutch Relief Alliance taking on aspects of the Grand Bargain commitments. This may be the first evaluation exercise examining this question. The report is finalised but not yet in the public domain.

### Global Preparedness Partnership

The Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) works to elevate 15 countries to a level of preparedness at which most disaster events can be managed locally and with reduced need for international assistance by 2020. The GPP includes the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20), made up of a group of finance ministers of 48 countries highly vulnerable to climate change, United Nations entities, and the World Bank. Since its launch in 2016, the GPP has agreed at the ministerial level on a common operational manual and raised funds to start diagnostic work in 10 countries. Under the leadership of national governments and based on their priorities, the GPP partners will jointly plan and identify actions and investments to strengthen national and sub-national preparedness. In 2017, GPP launched its first round of country applications to strengthen preparedness capacities and received submissions



from 25 countries. The GPP Steering Committee is currently determining which country applications will be successful and after this the GPP Secretariat will notify all the countries. Scoping Missions are expected to begin later this year.

## Grand Bargain

The Grand Bargain commits 52 of the humanitarian system's largest contributors to a package of transformations that seeks to reduce the financing gap by improving the effectiveness of humanitarian response and the financial efficiency of aid. The initiative complements efforts to shrink needs and broaden the resource base for humanitarian action. One year on, the signatories, 22 of whom joined after its launch, reported taking action in ten areas to change the way they work.

- **Transparency:** 73 per cent of donors and most aid organizations publish high quality data to IATI.
- **Localization:** 51 per cent of signatories took steps to better understand and remove barriers that prevent organizations and donors from partnering with local and national responders.
- **Cash programming:** 73 per cent made efforts to understand the risks and benefits of, and develop standards for, cash programming, while 36 per cent increased the routine use of cash.
- **Reduce duplication:** 42 per cent of aid organizations reported participating in efforts to provide transparent and comparable cost structures.
- **Needs assessment:** More than 60 per cent strengthened and shared needs assessment data.
- **A participation revolution:** More than a third of aid organizations took action through humanitarian country teams to promote engagement and accountability to people and communities, and to build systematic links between feedback mechanisms and corrective action. 42 per cent of donors provided more flexible funding to facilitate programme adaptation in response to feedback.
- **Multi-year planning and funding:** 65 per cent of signatories made efforts to increase multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and funding.
- **Earmarking:** 63 per cent of donors took step to progressively reduce the degree of earmarking of funds.
- **Simplify reporting:** 65 per cent of signatories reported actions to simplify and harmonize reporting requirements.
- **Humanitarian-development engagement:** 70 per cent of signatories invested in durable solutions for refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), as well as sustainable support for migrants, returnees and host-receiving communities and other situations of recurring vulnerabilities.

Looking ahead to May 2018, signatories have agreed to a set of actions to maintain the political momentum to the Grand Bargain commitment, increase synergies across work streams and with other groups and make changes visible at the field level. The Independent Grand Bargain Report on progress can be accessed at: [https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/nn\\_-\\_grand\\_bargain\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/nn_-_grand_bargain_report_final.pdf)



### Network for Empowered Aid Response

The Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) is a global platform for local and national actors from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America seeking to reshape the top-down humanitarian and development system. It promotes a more equitable and dignified system with communities and local and national capacities at the centre of aid efforts.

Since launching at the World Humanitarian Summit, the Network has grown to over 56 members, including over 30 NGOs from four regions affected by the largest humanitarian crises. At the global level, NEAR has participated in the 'localization' agenda discourse, contributing to discussions on defining "local actors" and to efforts to define and measure funding to local and national responders. NEAR also commissioned research to identify innovative local and national financing solutions, beginning with Islamic financing, and piloted the Standard for Good Financial Grant Practice with 25 members to strengthen grant management.

### New Way of Working

The New Way of working emerged from the United Nations Secretary-General's call for moving from delivering aid to ending need. At the World Humanitarian Summit, eight UN Principals signed, and the World Bank and IOM endorsed, a Commitment to Action, with almost 120 entities aligning to the core commitment on advancing the New Way of Working. The approach seeks to achieve collective outcomes, over a multi-year timeframe of three to five years, based on the comparative advantages of member States and organizations spanning the humanitarian and development spheres, including UN entities, NGOs, and International Financing Institutions.

Since the Summit, global and regional events have supported NWOW's implementation and produced analysis and practical recommendations for operationalizing the approach. Country-based progress has provided critical feedback on adapting the NWOW to a variety of contexts. For example, in Burkina Faso humanitarian analysis is now a key component of the Common Country Analysis underpinning the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), while an ad hoc group that spans the humanitarian and development nexus has defined strategic programmatic priorities as a first step towards identifying collective outcomes. In Mauritania, humanitarian and development actors have come together to undertake a resilience systems analysis which will inform a shared understanding of needs and risks, as the basis for planning and programming in a more integrated fashion. In Sudan, the humanitarian response plan and UNDAF were designed simultaneously, encouraging connections among the planning frameworks from the beginning and creating a conducive base to define collective outcomes.

### Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies.

The Rapid Response Mechanism for Higher Education in Emergencies (RRM) was launched to assist refugees and displaced people to accessed higher education. Good progress has been made in setting up a RRM in its three main components, notably at the level of its Financing Facility, and its Academic Consortium. Regarding its third key component, the Coordination Mechanism, progress is expected to be made **early** 2018. An International Conference on Higher Education in Emergencies will be held in Spring in Portugal, Lisbon in order to feature the RRM.



### **Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN)**

The Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network formally launched at the WHS Special Session held its second annual meeting in Addis Ababa from 7-9 November 2017, hosted by the African Union. 12 regional organizations participated including ASEAN/AHA Centre, CDEMA, OIC, EU and a number of African regional organisations. ODI's Humanitarian Policy Group supported the meeting as ROHAN's informal secretariat. Collaboration between regional organisations since the first annual meeting in Jakarta in November 2016 have included information sharing, development of a web-based knowledge platform, and a number of bilateral visits. The network has agreed to formalise a rotating chair and annual meeting, subject to mobilising internal and external resources as a group of regional organisations with an agreed vision and strategy which is currently under development. There is increasing momentum and ambition among regional organisations to work collectively and to support each other as peers through ROHAN.