



Statement made by Anne Street, Head of Humanitarian Policy at CAFOD at the Grand Bargain 2nd Annual Meeting:

6 Charter for Change organisations have signed the Grand Bargain: CAFOD, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid, and Oxfam as well as the NEAR Network which is a founder and endorser of the Charter for Change. As Charter for Change we have done an analysis of the reporting on Workstream 2 *More Support and Funding to National and Local Actors* and there is some encouraging progress. Particularly notable is progress by Denmark which has taken some bold steps in redesigning its CSO partnership approaches ensuring its partners work to support and strengthen capacity of local communities to better prepare for and respond to crises, particularly in areas affected by armed conflict and recurrent natural disaster. Furthermore, Denmark has requested that their multi-year agreements with UN agencies are reflected in their sub-contractual agreements with NGO implementing partners.

Donors could follow the lead of Denmark, Belgium, and Slovenia in asking UN and NGO and Red Cross funding partners to articulate how they are helping to move forward the Grand Bargain localisation commitments as a condition of continued funding.

Signatories can incentivise behaviour change in aid organisations and we believe this would reduce the gap between the ambition of the Grand Bargain and field reality.

On a rather disappointing note, only 7 signatories provided relatively complete reporting on funds passed to local and national actors, whilst a further 7 provided partial data. We do hope that we can all work on this over the next year, and encourage signatories to provide data into the matrix already developed by the workstream on how much funding they pass to national and local actors, so we can develop a baseline to track how the system is progressing in providing more funding as directly as possible to national and local actors.

We are also encouraged that the country based pooled funds now provide 24% of their funding to local actors. However, given that a number of signatories, including Germany, Norway, Switzerland and Belgium, have reported increasing their allocations and advocacy on the Advisory Boards of Pooled Funds as a way to provide more funding for national actors, we think there now needs to be a far more ambitious target for how much of the pooled funds go to national actors.

When we talk to national and local actors 4 things come up repeatedly in relation to the Grand Bargain:

Firstly; there is insufficient knowledge, awareness and discussion of it at the national level, and because national actors have limited awareness of it they are hampered in how far they can work to encourage signatories to better implement their commitments at the field level. This needs to change, and indeed we are optimistic that with a number of initiatives underway in 2018 we will see progress.

Secondly; they stress the need for multi-year commitments in funding to be made, and passed on to national actors.

Thirdly; they underline the need to mainstream the humanitarian development nexus into all aspects.

Finally, they stress the need for all aid agencies, the UN, the IFRC and INGOs to ensure that we all pay a fair share of administrative costs of national organisations working in humanitarian response, and that donors actively support and promote this practice.

Thank you