



Localisation of Humanitarian Aid

We the undersigned organisations, working in humanitarian action welcome the extensive consultations and discussions generated at the 2016 Istanbul World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process.

Now is the time for humanitarian actors to commit to the recommendations arising through the WHS process and deliver change within their own organisational ways of working.

We recognise that national and local actors can play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response.

In the case of international NGO signatories: -

We commit our organisations to implement the **8-point Charter for Change** by 2020 ensuring it is communicated effectively to staff, partners, donors and other stakeholders.

We also commit to reporting annually on progress.

In the case of national and local NGOs working in partnership with international NGOs: -

We endorse and support this Charter for Change.

We will hold our international NGO partners who are signatories of this Charter to account.

We are actively seeking those who are not signatories to this Charter to sign up.

The 8-point Charter for Change

Point 1. Increase direct funding to national and local NGOs for humanitarian action:

As of 2017, only 0.4% of humanitarian aid was channelled directly to national non-government actors (NGOs and CSOs) for humanitarian work – a total of US\$84.0 million out of US\$27.3 billion¹.

We commit through advocacy and policy influence on North American and European donors (including institutional donors, foundations and private sector).

We encourage them to increase the year on year percentage of their humanitarian funding going to national and local NGOs.

We commit that by 2020 at least 25% of our own humanitarian funding will be passed to national and local NGOs.

We commit to introduce our NGO partners to our own direct donors with the aim of them accessing direct financing.

Point 2. Reaffirm the Principles of Partnership: We endorse and have signed on to the Principles of Partnership, (Equality, Transparency, Results-Oriented Approach, Responsibility and Complementarity) introduced by the Global Humanitarian Platform in 2007.

Point 3. Increase transparency around resource transfers to national and local NGOs: A significant change in approaches towards transparency is needed in order to

build trust, accountability and efficiency of investments channelled to national actors via international intermediaries.

We commit to document the types of organisation we cooperate with in humanitarian response and to publish these figures (or percentages) in our public accounts using the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) definition² and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard³.

¹ [State of Humanitarian Systems Report, 2018](#), Page 83-85.

² See [Categories for tracking direct as possible funding to local and national actors](#)

³ Fully respecting security and not necessarily publishing the names of individual partners in conflict contexts.



Point 4. Stop undermining local capacity: We commit to implement fair recruitment policies to discourage the poaching of staff from national and local NGOs (as this severely undermines their capacity to operate, particularly in the height of emergency response).

We will explore alternatives with our partners such as secondments, mentoring or supporting national surge initiatives.

Point 5. Emphasise the importance of national actors: We undertake to advocate to donors to make working through local and national actors' part of their criteria for assessing framework partners and calls for project proposals.

Point 6. Address subcontracting: Our local and national collaborators are involved in the design of the programmes at the outset and participate in decision-making as equals in influencing programme design and partnership policies.

Point 7. Robust organisational support and capacity strengthening: We will support local actors to become robust organisations that continuously improve their role and share in the overall global humanitarian response.

We undertake to pay adequate administrative support. A test of our seriousness in capacity building is that by 2020 we will have allocated resources to support our partners in this.

We will publish the percentages of our humanitarian budget which goes directly to partners for humanitarian capacity building by 2020.

Point 8. Communication to the media and the public about partners: In any communications to the international and national media and to the public, we will promote the role of local and national actors and acknowledge the work that they carry out and include them as spokespersons when security considerations permit.

Signed by: (INGOs)

Endorsed by: (Local and National NGOs)

To sign or endorse this Charter for Change please email admin@charter4change.org with the full name of your organisation.

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