



LOCALISATION OF HUMANITARIAN AID

ENDORSERS CHARTER OF ACCOUNTABILITY

We the undersigned **endorser organisations** of the [Charter 4 Change](#), working in humanitarian action, recognize the Charter for Change (C4C) as an important step to realizing the recommended actions during the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process in 2016. We appreciate the 8-point commitments of the INGOs *to deliver change within their own organisational ways of working in order for southern-based national actors to play an increased and more prominent role in humanitarian response* as key start of transforming the humanitarian system towards making the affected of the humanitarian crisis as the focus with recognition of the important role of the local actors in the process.

We the undersigned C4C **endorser organisations** believe that the transformation of the humanitarian system can only be hastened when southern-based NGOs, working in partnership with international NGOs, will not only perform supportive role but become pro-active partners in the change process. We therefore take it upon ourselves the responsibility to ensure that we make the people affected of crisis as the focus of our humanitarian work and make ourselves accountable to them. We also take responsibility in holding our partner signatory INGOs to account for the fulfillment of their commitments to the Charter for Change and influence the non-signatories to support.

We the undersigned C4C **endorser organisations** recognize that while we need to consider country specific context in developing a framework of accountability for local actors, we also believe that we need to develop a global charter that is applicable in all contexts that we could commit to and which we could further contextualize, innovate and adopt at country level. Thus after 3 months of open consultations through on-line platform, face-to-face meetings, and country-level discussions that ensured wide and extensive participation among all C4C endorsers, we the undersigned have adopted and commit to the following **8-point global Charter of Accountability of C4C endorsers**:

Point 1. Hold ourselves and partners accountable in all humanitarian funding received

As endorsers of C4C we believe on the importance of Trust in paving for power sharing and local leadership in humanitarian response. We believe that Trust is not given, it is earned. While the INGO partners and donors are increasing direct funding to their local NGO partners for humanitarian action, as endorsers we also commit to being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us and be accountable and transparent of its use and ensure that we observe highest level of accountability of the funds to the intended recipient – the people affected of the crisis. We will endeavor to also hold our INGO partners accountable to their commitment to increase the role of local actors in humanitarian response by increasing funding to their local partners.

Point 2. Uphold Accountable and Meaningful Partnerships

We affirm our commitment to the Principles of Partnership that promote Equality, Transparency, Results-Oriented Approach, Responsibility and Complementarity which was introduced by the Global Humanitarian Platform in 2007. We will endeavor to promote empowering partnerships with our INGO and funding partners, the same principles we will uphold in developing partnerships among local actors and especially with the community partners – the people affected of crisis. We will endeavor to make ourselves trustworthy in the power acquired from increased role in the humanitarian response.

Point 3. Uphold transparency and accountability on utilization of aid

We believe that it is not only the quantity or amount but also the quality of utilization of humanitarian aid that matters in ensuring impact of aid on the lives of the crisis affected. We commit to endeavor to achieve highest level of accountability and effectiveness in the utilization of resources and aid to ensure highest benefit for the intended recipients. We would endeavor to set-up systems and procedures that increase transparency and efficiency in the management of humanitarian resources. We would uphold transparency and endeavor to meet mutually agreed upon standards in fund management policies, systems and procedures with reference to the agreed upon international standards.

Point 4. Enhance capacity of our staff to meet mutually agreed standards with partners

To effectively promote local leadership in humanitarian response, we will endeavor to continually improve the capacity of our staff to meet mutually agreed standards with partners. We will endeavor to improve our compensation and provision of benefits of our staff. We will improve our policies and systems to improve the security of our staff especially those operating in high risk areas. We will endeavor to reduce turn-over of staff to ensure continuity of knowledge and learning and for institution building. We will implement fair recruitment policies to be able to hire the best persons to deliver an effective and efficient humanitarian response that is accountable to the people affected of the crisis.

Point 5. Strengthen local leadership and role of local actors

We will endeavor to be highly effective in facilitating humanitarian response that would enable shared and strong local leadership. We define local actors to include local groups and structures in the communities especially of those affected of the crisis apart from the national and local NGOs. We will advocate to our partner INGOs and donors to enable leadership of local actors in humanitarian response.

Point 6. Ensure participatory process in programming

In developing our humanitarian response, we will ensure participatory and responsive programming that would address actual needs as prioritized by the aid recipients. We will uphold the dignity of people affected of crisis and recognize their capacity to help themselves. We will promote cash aid as an empowering tool, where appropriate, for enabling the affected to bounce back from the impact of crisis the fastest way they can. We will advocate with our C4C signatory partners to ensure that there is room and flexibility to ensure participation of aid recipients in designing and programming humanitarian action.

Point 7. Strengthening our organizational capacity to become more effective and efficient

Upholding the dignity of people affected of crisis requires improvement in our organizational humanitarian response capacity. We need to ensure effective and efficient delivery of an empowering and dignifying humanitarian services. We will improve our organizational leadership and management, our policies, systems and procedures. We will negotiate with our funding partners for the allocation of as well as mobilize necessary resources to improve our organizational capacity to include our need for administrative support. We will advocate for multi-year funding to enable our organizations to become more effective in its programming not only for humanitarian response but for building resilience of the crisis affected. We will enable our organizations to ensure gender-responsiveness, culture-sensitivity, inclusion of the most vulnerable and at risk, protection of human rights, peace-enabling, empowering and dignifying humanitarian response in a most efficient way.

Point 8. Upholding the protection of rights and dignity of people in our communication

In any communication to the international, national and local media and to the public, we will uphold the dignity and protection of rights and security of the recipients of aid. We will promote the role of local

actors and recognize the partnerships that enable the delivery of the humanitarian response. We will work with our C4C signatory partners and advocate to donors to ensure that in their communication they acknowledge the role of their partners and uphold the dignity and protection of rights of recipients of aid.

Signed by (in alphabetical order):

To sign this Charter of Accountability of C4C Endorsers please email admin@charter4change.org with the full name of your organisation.