

**AFRICAN HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS NETWORK (AHON)
STATEMENT ON WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY; 19TH AUGUST 2022;**

On this World Humanitarian Day; 19th August 2022, local humanitarian actors come together to ask a critical question -How do we synergize efforts in making humanitarian work more result oriented with local actors at the frontline as first responders? while upholding the; Leave No One behind and Do No Harm principles in Africa.

Background

In 2022, Humanitarian needs are growing fast in Africa, driven by increasing climatic shocks, conflicts, impact of Covid-19 and economic slowdowns. Over 114 million people in 15 most affected African countries require urgent assistance in 2022. Africa has more than 30 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and asylum seekers, among them, over 10.4 million are internally displaced children aged below 15 years. Protracted conflicts and intercommunal conflicts in some parts of Africa continue to contribute to increased displacements, food insecurity, and limited access to basic social services. Most countries facing conflicts are also experiencing other forms of shocks particularly related to climate and economic shocks.

The Grand Bargain's commitments through donors and aid organizations to providing 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020, along with more un-earmarked money, and increased multi-year funding to ensure greater predictability and continuity in humanitarian response, among other commitments has not been met, especially for local and national responders- Increasing access of local partners to international humanitarian funding has been a cause for concern. However, there has been no comparable effort to strengthen the capacities of local and national responders to absorb international funding. Investments in strengthening the capacities of local partners remained largely static, with only limited increase in support from donors. One unified framework tailored to the capacity of local partners could be more effective than unconnected initiatives of aid agencies.

We, African civil society organizations, are often the first to notice and respond to the needs that emerge in communities for shelter, food, water, health care, or education. When crises persist, as they too often do, we do not leave. We are committed to supporting communities from emergency, through recovery, and to ensuring that we also contribute to long-term development, and peace. We compliment the work of governments, regional economic communities, and the African Union, to assist disaster-affected populations.

In May 2022, 18 local Actors in Africa attended the African Humanitarian and Pledging Summit in Equatorial Guinea as supported by Oxfam, Trocaire, Caritas, ICVA and Christian Aid, etc. As Local Actors we made 05 Critical pledges and on this World Humanitarian Day we re-emphasize the pledges made!

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Therefore, with that background

“We the local actors believe that through our expertise in humanitarian work and localization while upholding the principles of Charter for Accountability; we effectively bring assistance closer and faster to the people in need with wider coverage, especially during emergencies. We believe that for localization to work, we need to establish a mechanism that is nationally-led, regionally enhanced, and internationally supported.

The essential role of local and national actors therefore in humanitarian action as was highlighted at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016 cannot be over-emphasized. The changes or transformation needed to enable local and national actors to take a greater leadership role in humanitarian action were outlined in all three major sets of commitments endorsed at the summit; Agenda for Humanity (2016)¹, the Grand Bargain (2016)², and the Charter for Change (2015)³.

Furthermore, COVID-19 has not only shown us that we can only succeed if we stand together but also demonstrated the role of local actors in humanitarian action, evidenced by their resilience to remain on the ground even when many of our friends were out of the field working remotely.

What is at the glance

On the 19th of August 2022, World Humanitarian Day, we celebrate the design, review, and approval of the Terms of Reference for the African Humanitarian Organization Network (AHON) and election of the Chair and Vice Chair persons; We Celebrate the establishment of the governing structure of AHON including regional structures.

In 2022, the theme for World Humanitarian Day is; #”It takes a village”. It marks the global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people who need it the most. There is no better way to champion this theme in practice rather than through the African Humanitarian Organization Network!

Our asks

1. That AHON intentionally provided a platform to contribute voices and perspectives of African Humanitarian Actors to advance the efforts of the African Union and the future AU Humanitarian Agency.
2. AHON is involved in the operationalization of the African Union Humanitarian Agency and is represented in its structure.

In conclusion we the local humanitarian actors so listed align ourselves to the theme of the day believing that the principle of saving life first should be exercised at all times thus every person has the right to seek safety-whoever they are, where never they come from, and whenever they are forced to flee so This World Humanitarian Day and every day, we stand together with all Persons of Concern (POCs) in Africa in supporting them to fulfil their rights and reach their potential

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We submit

**Mimidoo Achakpa
Chairperson**

**Ahmed Ibrahim
Vice Chairperson**

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