

CHRISTIAN AID STATEMENT TO THE GRAND BARGAIN ANNUAL MEETING

Christian Aid was disappointed to hear that few agencies were able to articulate to the ODI Grand Bargain Annual Report team a clear example of where programming decisions were influenced by feedback received from affected populations. There is still plenty of room for improvement in delivering on the Participation Revolution. Christian Aid believes that stronger adherence and buy-in to, incentives for and prioritisation of the Core Humanitarian Standard by all signatories is a key vehicle to improve accountability to affected populations.

We welcome ODI's references in the Annual Report to the Survivor-Led Response (SLR) approaches that Christian Aid has worked on including with ACT Alliance, Church of Sweden, Dan Church Aid, East Jerusalem YMCA, ECOWEB Philippines, Local to Global Protection and many national NGO partners to support crisis affected communities to lead and manage their own holistic, coordinated responses to emergencies in ways that improve their immediate well-being, strengthen longer-term resilience and accelerate transformative social change. Our emphasis is on low cost, high speed, targeted support for individual communities to empower them to respond now and in the future to crises affecting them. A qualitative evaluation of this approach in Philippines, Myanmar and Kenya in 2018 emphasised that these modalities are enabling communities to obtain what they need, more quickly and at lower cost than external actors can commonly achieve. We believe that Survivor-Led Response approaches speak well to the cash, localisation, nexus and participation workstreams of the Grand Bargain and encourage others to learn about them and consider replicating such approaches in your own programmes.

Christian Aid believes that strengthened funding for the Start Fund and for the establishment of Start Network national hubs is an important opportunity to increase funding to national organisations.

We support the recommendations on localisation to the Grand Bargain annual meeting issued by the **Charter for Change** in conjunction with the **Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships** consortium (which are also being promoted by Action Aid, CAFOD, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, DanChurchAid and OXFAM).

These include recommendations to

- strengthen principled partnership through multi-year funding, covering overhead costs, and investing in capacity-strengthening
- mitigate the impact of proliferating compliance requirements on localisation efforts
- accelerate progress on direct humanitarian funding to national and local actors at global and country levels; and
- catalyse a step-change in meaningful participation by local actors across the Grand Bargain and wider decision-making processes at global and field levels

We join Charter 4 Change and Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships colleagues in calling for Grand Bargain signatories to:

- Find adequate ways of increasing investment in the core institutional capacities of local humanitarian actors between crises.
- Adopt localisation as a key selection criterion when reviewing proposals. Multi-year funding to UN agencies and INGOs should require applicants to define localization milestones. Donors should use their influence through multi-year and core funding to require agencies to demonstrate progress on these issues between now and 2021.

- Harmonise and simplify compliance approaches aligned around reasonable common minimum standards. Due diligence and risk management assessments conducted by one donor should be accepted by others to reduce the burden on frontline responders.
- Make the shift towards 25% a corporate priority within individual agencies. Leadership should unlock progress towards this through agency-specific action-plans on localisation, which articulate milestones to achieve the target by 2021.
- Establish a category of local NGO Grand Bargain ‘endorser’ and learn from Charter4Change’s approach to engaging local actors in this way to hold international signatories accountable.
- Develop field-level inter-agency ‘Localisation Frameworks’ and ‘Action Plans’ building on the pilots for these currently being developed in Nigeria, Myanmar, Nepal and South Sudan.