

Transparency

1. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Answer: CAFOD reports to the IATI standard. Over the coming year we are planning to further enhance our capacity in this regard and to share additional information about the work we fund. We have made efforts to raise internal awareness of open data at different levels of the organisation and we are shifting from focusing on data capture to data analysis and usage. We have adjusted our programme management information system to more accurately reflect partner organisation types and to more easily and accurately report on how much of our funding goes to national organisations, in line with Grand Bargain categorisation.

CAFOD is engaging in discussions within the BOND Working Group on Transparency (which now also covers IATI) about how we can encourage 'downstream partners' to be IATI compliant where this is sensible, reasonable and proportionate.

CAFOD participated in the Caritas Europa (CE) knowledge management conference in Belgrade (in October 2017) to discuss how we can use a mapping tool to consolidate and share (transfer knowledge) about work being undertaken across CE's membership, and potentially across Caritas Internationalis membership in the long term. This resulted in the development of a publicly available mapping tool (<http://mapping.caritas.eu/>).

2. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

During 2018-2019 we will continue engagement with various IATI/transparency working groups in the sector. Internally our processes will continue to be simplified to make them more user friendly for staff and to support their ability to report data transparently. We will continue to develop our internal systems to allow for more accurate data capture. We will support partners, as necessary, to report data as part of donor requirements (for example, seconding staff to partner offices to support them with data capture processes and methodologies and incorporate training on this topic as part of emergency response programming).

A proposal went to the CAFOD *Business Management Cluster* in September 2017 and subsequently sent for approval from the *International Programme Steering Group* in February 2018, where there was agreement that we would comply as per any DfID requirements. This will be discussed in further detail with international programme managers in April.

3. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

4. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Answer: We have adjusted our grant management systems to better display how funds are spent. This is an ongoing collaborative process incorporating input from IT, programme and partnership teams.

Localisation

5. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

CAFOD's Humanitarian Capacity Strengthening programme team has worked over the last year to provide support to partners across Africa and Asia. The flagship programme emphasises the development of long-term sustainability and autonomy of local actors through a holistic approach to organisational development separate from project/response funding cycles.

The Humanitarian Capacity Strengthening (HCS) programme accompanies a small handful of organisations which are committed to enhancing their abilities to respond to emergencies and manage humanitarian programmes. This work starts with an in-depth and holistic self-assessment process, undertaken by the organisation itself, of existing capacities and areas for improvement. Based on this self-assessment, the CAFOD HCS team support partners to develop implementation and monitoring plans to track changes within the organisation and, ultimately, their impact in communities and increased capacity to respond during crises. As a direct result of CAFOD's capacity strengthening work, partners have been supported to bridge the otherwise challenging divide between local level response and internationally-managed funding, through strengthening partners' capacity to absorb and manage programmatic funding.

As part of the START/DEPP-funded Shifting the Power programme, staff in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) held a series of workshops with local humanitarian partners, with the aim of strengthening organisational capacities across a range of thematic areas. Furthermore, staff introduced partners to initiatives, issues and stakeholders active on the global level, notably Grand Bargain and Charter4Change. In the DRC, CAFOD was the lead agency for Shifting the Power, bringing together an array of actors to participate in trainings and workshops. These resulted in, among other things, better awareness of the workings of the global aid architecture. Many of these organisations went on to endorse the Charter4Change (indeed the DRC is one of the most active and vocal countries for C4C engagement).

The humanitarian policy team continues to advocate alongside local partners and has worked to ensure that southern organisations have a seat at the international table to strengthen their influence in international coordination mechanisms. For example, during 2017 CAFOD supported direct participation of national and local actors in a number of key events being held in the global north, notably the Wilton Park Conference on localisation in June 2017, the Charter4Change annual signatories meeting in October 2017, ECOSOC-HAS and the OCHA Humanitarian Policy Forum in New York in December 2017, and the World Humanitarian Action Forum in London in November 2017.

CAFOD was also the lead agency of the Transforming Surge Capacity Project, focusing on developing training resources to share with, and deliver to, local and regionally-based humanitarian actors. This training aimed to ensure uniformity of skills and knowledge across different organisations and allow personnel to be deployed from a roster of local and international aid organisations (in the case of the Philippines, individuals on the 'surge roster' are also regularly employed by other means and can be activated to deploy from their regular day jobs) and inserted into humanitarian scenarios. The identification and training of staff from this roster has already been used on several occasions.

CAFOD was also one of the leading voices in international forums, advocating for clarity around the meaning of the wording in the Grand Bargain Workstream 2 Commitment 5. In order to take this forward together with 2 other members of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team, CAFOD co-chaired the Localisation Marker Working Group which in December 2017, after a 15 month process finalised the definitions of national actors and 'as directly as possible' which was then agreed through the IASC HFTT as the sector wide definitions for the purpose of the entire GB signatories tracking and reporting on their commitment to pass 25% of humanitarian funding as directly as possible to national and local actors.

Within the GB, we are active in the regular workstream 2 teleconferences, and have worked with the co-conveners to ensure that a wide cross section of national and local actors join the working group. We have also fed into the workstream workplan. CAFOD is one of the NGO focal points for GB workstream 2, organised through InterAction as well as just having agreed to be the localisation contact for BOND's Humanitarian Working Group. We are also members of the VOICE Network's Grand Bargain Taskforce and sit on the steering group for a VOICE project on the Grand Bargain. Furthermore, we are on the CI localisation working group and have participated in the elaboration of a survey to go out to all 160+ Caritas Internationalis Member Organisations, and supported the development of a localisation position paper with other CI members of the Charter4Change, which will be finalised in the coming months. We have also recently been invited to join the START Networks' informal group/taskforce working on taking forward localisation within the network.

We have adapted the IASC definitions into our grant management system in order to be able to report and track against GB requirements and definitions by the 2020 deadline. These are now in place, and the tracking and recording of data in these system-wide agreed categories will start at the beginning of our new financial year, April 2018.

6. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

The CAFOD humanitarian capacity strengthening programme referenced above, has recently undergone a strategic review and will be entering into new priority countries: Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, in addition to existing programme partners and will have a more defined remit.

CAFOD will continue to bring the voice of local actors into global debates, and to raise their profile in our communications work and via relevant publications and media outlets.

We continue to sit on the steering committee for the ECHO-funded Advancing Localisation Through Partnerships consortium and to contribute support and expertise in the 4 country contexts of this programme (South Sudan, Nigeria, Nepal and Myanmar).

During 2018 we will continue to support the capacity of actors in the Near Network through an ECHO funded grant, and we will support the roll-out of their pooled-funding mechanism for local responders. Furthermore, we will continue to work with the Near Network to build the capacities of their members and their abilities to access and absorb funding and to engage with stakeholders in the international aid system, through a series of trainings and workshops.

We will continue as one of the leading voices in the Charter4Change, and to raise awareness of this initiative (especially at national level) and the obligations of INGOs to their local partners, and to encourage all signatories to adapt their systems and practices to truly live up to the 8 C4C commitments they have signed up to and to encourage the 200+ national actors who have endorsed the Charter to hold their INGO signatory partners to account for implementing their commitments.

7. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

8. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

CAFOD's emphasis on incorporating partner feedback into programme and strategy development is responsible for much of our success with regards to implementation of Grand Bargain commitments.

Within our capacity strengthening work, partners are supported to identify priority thematic areas for their development (e.g. governance, finance, accountability, HR) and to develop implementation strategies based on these assessments.

Within the Charter4Change CAFOD led the call for better engagement with local actors and advocated for their involvement in the 2017 signatories meeting in The Hague.

It is critically important to our operating model to ensure that partner inputs, speaking as the actors best-placed to speak for communities in crisis, are reflected in our own organisational strategies and priorities.

Cash

9. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Answer: We are increasing the prevalence of CTP as part of our overall programming. Cash and other voucher transfer programmes have been rolled out, including in collaboration with other GB signatories, in DRC, Europe (refugee response), Nigeria, Ethiopia, Nepal and as part of our Syria programme response.

The Head of Humanitarian Programmes (Africa) attended the initial set-up meeting of the Caritas Internationalis (CI) Cash Working Group, hosted by Caritas Germany. The post-holder and other staff continue to contribute to these meetings and discussions. A principle objective of this working group is to develop a CI position paper on the use of cash transfer programming.

During 2017 CAFOD set up an internal Cash Interest Group which developed a cash discussion paper (in consultation with colleagues across the organisation) including recommendations for improved learning and dissemination of knowledge on cash resources throughout CAFOD.

10. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Answer: We will continue to expand cash programming as part of our emergency response, and ensure greater staff understanding and learning around this theme.

As a member of the CI Cash Working Group we will draw upon the diversity of (unique) experiences and expertise within the Caritas network to reinforce our capacities and influence as practitioners of (and advocates for) CTP. The working group will also deliver standardised and coordinated tools and methodologies for assessments, training and shared learning across the federation.

11. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

12. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Answer: We have communicated the use of cash to supporters via our website and have dedicated resources available to explain the benefits and modalities of cash programming.

We collaborate with other members of the CI network (both bilaterally and via the CI Cash Working Group) to share resources, learning and experiences on the use of cash programming.

Participation Revolution

13. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

In August 2017 CAFOD staff were provided with a practical training on Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS), to deepen knowledge of the commitments and skill-up on putting CHS into practice in programmes.

CAFOD staff participate in the Caritas Internationalis Accountability Working Group, developing and promoting accountability and protection mainstreaming tools for CI Member Organisations around the world.

The CAFOD complaints handling policy is currently being revised and a safeguarding email has been set up as an easy point of access.

Protection mainstreaming – with participation and accountability as key principles – assessments have been undertaken with staff and partners in Nepal, South Sudan and Nigeria, with follow up support to put action plans into practice.

CAFOD's humanitarian capacity strengthening programme engages with partners at local level. This programme has resulted in participation of local actors on national and regional coordination bodies in several country contexts, and in some instances in collaboration with the Start Network's Shifting the Power project (CAFOD had designated Shifting the Power focal points to engage with partners in several country contexts) The programme also incorporates training on CHS including needs assessment and feedback mechanisms, ultimately leading to greater engagement with, and accountability to, communities.

14. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Answer: CAFOD will continue to participate at local level and on the global steering committee for the ECHO funded Accelerating Localisation Through Partnerships project. A major outcome of this initiative is to empower local actors to strengthen their capacity to hold leadership roles in emergency response settings. Participation of local level actors will, by proxy, ensure better and more direct engagement with communities in the planning and execution of relief programming.

CAFOD will continue to take a leading role in the Charter4Change. This initiative aims to become more locally driven over coming months, with emphasis on supporting and empowering local actors to directly influence and shape international organisations and contribute to global discussions on reforming the humanitarian system.

Evaluation findings will be discussed in regular management team meetings

15. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

Answer: CAFOD have maximised learnings and cost savings through shared posts such as the accountability advisor (with Christian Aid) and protection mainstreaming coordinator (with CRS and Caritas Australia)

16. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Answer: Protection mainstreaming training and better awareness of the topic amongst staff has resulted in more inclusive programming.

Earmarking and flexibility

17. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

18. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Answer: We are in the process of reviewing our 'General Emergencies Fund' policies to provide stronger accountability and evidencing/documenting around decisions on whether or not to allocate funding.

19. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

20. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Reporting requirements

21. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Answer: Integration of Caritas International Management Standards, via which, as part of Caritas Internationalis we are able to accept financial checks done by CI or other member agencies.

We have mapped crossover between our internal direction, Charter for Change, Grand Bargain and CHS Commitments with a view to consolidating the actions we need to take and be able to streamline reporting.

We have supported work undertaken within the IASC HFTT, and led by ICVA, to harmonise and simplify reporting requirements, as reflected by the *Less Paper, More Aid* initiative. This has, so far, resulted in recommendations and resources in support of efforts to raise awareness of, and ultimately reduce, downstream reporting burden through simpler, more flexible and better harmonised reporting mechanisms. CAFOD also worked with OCHA colleagues to streamline PACT reporting on the Agenda for Humanity commitments so that reporting on the initiatives is compatible.

22. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

Answer: With other Charter4Change signatories, we aim to integrate, to the extent practical and appropriate, Grand Bargain, WHS and C4C reporting, in line with commitments to streamline reporting against Agenda for Humanity initiatives.

We will be investing time in improving the technology we have (e.g. improving the back-end of our international programme database to better support self-service reporting) and where appropriate, look to use other technologies to meet needs.

We are exploring adding results information to IATI Standard, and how we can better share data we have in more consumable format to support decision-making and learning.

23. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

24. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?

Humanitarian-Development engagement

25. Progress to date

Which concrete actions have you taken (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream?

Answer: The humanitarian capacity development programme has supported development and humanitarian partners to become more adaptable and capable of responding to crises. Similarly, resilience is integrated into the programmes portfolio, resulting in stronger communities.

Our programme teams have contributed to planning in different forums (such as Start) for increased resource allocation for anticipatory response work.

Through advocacy discussions such as IASC and Charter4Change, CAFOD have presented the case for multi-year flexible funding and funding not tied to annual reporting cycles or appeals (e.g. for organisational strengthening).

26. Planned next steps

What are the specific next steps which you plan to undertake to implement the commitments (with a focus on the next 2 years)?

27. Efficiency gains

Please indicate, qualitatively, efficiency gains associated with implementation of GB commitments and how they have benefitted your organisation and beneficiaries.

28. Good practices and lessons learned

Which concrete action(s) have had the most success (both internally and in cooperation with other signatories) to implement the commitments of the work stream? And why?