

Inclusion Charter:

Five steps to impartial humanitarian response for the most vulnerable

To achieve the World Humanitarian Summit objectives of putting people at the centre of decision making and alleviating the suffering of the 100 million people at risk of being left behind, steps must be taken by all those involved in response, including National Governments, NGOs and civil society, UN agencies and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies to address the neglect of all vulnerable and marginalised groups.

An inclusive approach to the design, implementation, monitoring and funding of assistance is required for relief to respond to vulnerability in all its forms and reach all marginalised people (including children, youth, older people, people with disabilities, ethnic groups and others who are marginalised due to their social status).

The Summit is committed to the principles of humanitarian action. The delivery of inclusive humanitarian action is critical to the fulfilment of the core principles of humanity and impartiality. Initiatives to meet the needs of specific groups such as women and girls must be matched with a broader set of commitments designed to avoid the continuation of the current one-size-fits-all responses that are neither accessible nor adapted to the different needs of different groups.

Such steps will enable people to move out of crises and on to a path toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and make the Summit outcomes consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, both of which recognise the diversity of affected populations and commit to 'leave no-one behind'.

The commitments below have been developed by leading organisations with a specific mandate to support particular vulnerable groups including children, youth and older people, as well as national and international NGOs and networks that are concerned about ensuring humanitarian assistance reaches the most vulnerable crisis-affected people. They draw and build upon the core commitments developed for the WHS roundtable discussions, and are designed to support and complement inclusion initiatives such as the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disability in Humanitarian Action.



PARTICIPATION

We will systematically engage with all affected people and encourage active and meaningful participation of the most marginalised, to ensure that their views and capacities are reflected and built into all aspects of the response including assessment, design, delivery and monitoring and evaluation.

This entails:

- ❖ Ensuring programmatic and funding decisions are based on robust vulnerability analysis, offering opportunities for the most marginalised to engage in consultations, and participate in response design and implementation and evaluation as early as possible. In doing so, we will support a common cross-agency approach for community engagement and accountability to connect community feedback to strategic decision-making processes.
- ❖ Recognising and supporting the role that local actors, including representatives of community groups such as women's groups, youth groups, older people's groups and disabled persons organisations, can play in facilitating participation of marginalised groups and those most at risk.



DATA

We will collect, fully disaggregate, and utilise data for different population groups in order to provide robust evidence to design, revise and learn from programming that is reflective of and appropriate for the people and needs identified.

This entails:

- ❖ Systematically collecting fully disaggregated data (by sex, age including older age, disability, location and other factors affecting people's access to assistance where appropriate) throughout the humanitarian programme cycle.
- ❖ Using disaggregated data and evidence from participatory engagement to ensure that all humanitarian response plans and programmes reflect the diverse needs of the affected population based on their gender, age, ability and other vulnerability factors.



FUNDING

We will work with humanitarian donors to ensure that funding is commensurate with the scale of needs and is allocated impartially according to need, recognising the needs of different groups.

This entails:

- ❖ Working with humanitarian donors to ensure funding, including pooled funds and Southern emerging Funding Pools are allocated only to funding actions that explicitly include a fully inclusive needs analysis with sex, age and disability disaggregated data where available.
- ❖ Working with humanitarian donors to ensure they apply the IASC, ECHO, or other gender and age markers to 100% of their humanitarian funding allocations, and to develop and refine markers to better reflect the needs of other marginalised groups such as persons with disability.
- ❖ Providing adequate funding for basic adaptation to services to ensure access barriers are removed.



CAPACITY

We will contribute to developing and maintaining the knowledge and skills of humanitarian actors so they are able to identify the needs of marginalised people and deliver appropriate and accessible assistance.

This entails:

- ❖ Contributing to the development of adequate and appropriate expertise at all levels to identify, analyse, and respond to the needs of the most marginalised, supporting capacity mapping to inform capacity development and gap-filling by international and regional partners.
- ❖ Building the *core knowledge* of staff to ensure an essential basic level understanding of humanitarian principles, available guidance in support of inclusive programming, and skills in data collection, analysis and use.
- ❖ Where appropriate, building *specialist skills* of staff to address the needs of vulnerable people in crisis.



COORDINATION

We will work with those responsible for humanitarian coordination to ensure that coordination mechanisms guarantee the needs of all affected people, including the most marginalised, are met.

This entails:

- ❖ Working with agencies responsible for humanitarian coordination to ensure they take a leadership role in identifying gaps in response capacity and supporting service mapping and referrals between mainstream and specialist actors to ensure the safety and dignity of the most vulnerable are protected and their needs addressed.
- ❖ Working with agencies responsible for humanitarian coordination to ensure focal points are created to mainstream and monitor inclusion of marginalised groups within coordination systems and operational agencies, reflecting the recommendations of OCHA's 2011 review of "cross cutting issues".