

# CARE commitments at the World Humanitarian Summit



## **Vision:**

CARE International believes that the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul (23-24 May 2016) offers an important and potentially once-in-a-generation opportunity to address some of the major challenges facing efforts to protect, assist and empower people affected by crises.

The challenge now resides in mobilising support across all stakeholder groups – Governments, multilateral agencies, civil society and the private sector – to attend the Summit, endorse proposed WHS commitments and implement them. The UN Secretary General's report, *'One Humanity: A Shared Responsibility'*, offers a comprehensive reflection on the state of humanitarian action, and outlines an impressive set of recommendations on ways forward.

CARE has played an active role in WHS deliberations, bringing experience from our staff, local civil society partners and government contacts in the global south. We are already actively engaged in on-going programmatic and inter-agency efforts to utilise the summit to change the way we work, and will deliver on around one hundred joint and collective commitments<sup>1</sup> as part of the WHS process. However, our priority commitments are as follows:

## **Commitment 1: Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity**

**By 2020 CARE will more effectively assist and protect affected populations in challenging and high risk environments.**

To contribute to wider efforts to promote understanding of and respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Red Cross Code of Conduct and a principled approach to humanitarian action, we will:

- 1.1. Train at least 100 international and national programme staff on principled humanitarian action in practice between 2016 and 2020.
- 1.2. Ensure our Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) process and reviews, which are undertaken on a regular basis by all 80 of our Country Offices, include plans to ensure planned responses reflect humanitarian principles.
- 1.3. Undertake a review of our global approaches to training of staff and civil society partners and strengthen attention to International Humanitarian Law, the Red Cross Code of Conduct and a principled approach to humanitarian action.
- 1.4. Invest in an organizational culture that more thoroughly integrates International Humanitarian Law, the Red Cross Code of Conduct and a principled approach to better support our country teams to manage risk and reach the most vulnerable people wherever they are.

## **Commitment 2: Leave no one behind**

**By 2020 CARE will empower women and girls as change agents and leaders**

To support the WHS agenda on 'leave no one behind', CARE is actively engaged on numerous inter-agency efforts to ensure inclusive and needs-based humanitarian action. In so doing, we recognise the inter-sections between gender, age, disability and other factors that prevent people accessing the assistance and protection they need. In particular, we commit at the WHS to:

- 2.1. Scale-up partnerships with women-led organisations on humanitarian assistance and protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change resilience and adaptation and recovery programmes in Syria, Pakistan, Nepal and Niger; and draw learning from these partnerships to inform our global approach.
- 2.2. Partner with women's organisations in our core sectors (shelter, WASH, sexual reproductive and maternal health and food security) to bring their expertise into efforts to define and implement minimum standards on gender in these sectors.
- 2.3. Monitor our funding to women-led groups and triple it by 2020 from our 2015 level.
- 2.4. Scale-up our 'whole of programme cycle' approach to monitoring gender responsive programming across all 80 CARE country offices emergency preparedness plans and bring learning from this into efforts to strengthen the IASC Gender Marker and the forthcoming new accountability framework for the IASC 2008 Gender Policy Statement. To do this, we will build on CARE's active role in piloting 'whole of programme' approaches to Gender Marking and the piloting of 'minimum standards' for gender, age and disability in the WASH sector.

### **Commitment 3: From delivering aid to ending need**

**By 2020 CARE will secure more resources for first and front line responders to spend on humanitarian action, DRR and climate adaptation and loss and damage.**

To support the WHS commitments to recognise and strengthen support for the role of local institutions in humanitarian action and meet the anticipated increase in need likely to be associated with accelerated climate change we commit to:

- 3.1 Ensure that by end 2018 at least 50% of all our partnerships fully comply with the Principles of Partnership, (Equality, Transparency, Results-Oriented Approach, Responsibility and Complementarity) introduced by the Global Humanitarian Platform in 2007, and thus reflect strategic partnership rather than subcontracting relationships. Invest in ensuring the management capacity and tools are available to make this 100% by 2020.
- 3.2 By May 2018 publish the percentages of our humanitarian budget which goes directly to partners for humanitarian capacity building; and undertake to ensure we budget for adequate administrative support for partners beyond the immediate costs of delivering specific projects, and support this with our independent funding where possible.
- 3.3 Ensure that by May 2018 at least 20% of our own humanitarian action (measured by spending) will be delivered through southern-based NGO partners.
- 3.4 By 2020 Streamline and harmonise with other similar NGOs the compliance requirements we request of partners, including capacity assessments, proposal documents and reporting requirements. This will include a commitment not to ask more of our partners than our donors ask of us.
- 3.5 Promote the role of local actors and acknowledge the work that they carry out, and include them as spokespersons when security considerations permit in any communications to the international and national media and to the public.
- 3.6 By 2020 Document the types of organisation we cooperate with in humanitarian response and to publish these figures (or percentages) in our public accounts using a recognised categorisation such as the GHA3 in real-time and to the IATI standard.
- 3.7 Only deploy to undertake humanitarian responses where needed, ensuring that our support is based on a clear assessment of need and complementarity with national NGOs, local CSOs and other stakeholders when making go/no go decisions on a response.

## Commitment 4: Invest in humanity

**By 2018 CARE will develop concrete organizational targets to increase direct and predictable financing for response, in particular national and local actors, and advocate for long-term support to ensure all humanitarians are able to maximise their impact.**

To support the WHS agenda to agree a 'Grand Bargain' with the aim of ensuring that the real costs of humanitarian action are covered by donors and we are held accountable by donors and affected people for ensuring those costs are appropriate, we commit to:

- 4.1. Transparently monitor the full costs of delivering our programs and to reducing our management costs as far as possible while still ensuring high impact, well managed programs.
- 4.2. Both ensure that we increase the proportion of our funding to front-line response, and increase our overall resources commensurate with the needs we see in the world today.
- 4.3. Increase the reach of our advocacy to UN Member states to meet their obligations in addressing global humanitarian issues through funding appropriate levels of response
- 4.4. Work together with other stakeholders to develop and implement a more transparent program planning and reporting process, in alignment with IATI principles, to drive efficiency gains and reduce duplicative costs.

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<sup>i</sup> CARE's broader commitments include all those captured in the following documents and processes:

- [InterAction](#) Members Commitments
- 25 of the 29 Core commitments from the High Level Round Tables. (4 commitments around complying with IHL, taking action to stop conflicts, protecting humanitarians and provide multi-year funding are not appropriate for us as an NGO) The HLRT documents are linked as follows: [Political Leadership](#), [Uphold the Norms](#), [Leave no-one behind](#), [Women and Girls](#), [Natural Disasters and Climate Change](#), [Ending Need](#), and [Humanitarian Financing](#)
- French NGO commitment to the World Humanitarian Summit
- Commitments from [Charter4Change](#)
- Commitments from UK NGOs Call for Humanity
- SCHR Grand Bargain commitments
- Save the Children Commitment on Safe School Construction
- [CHS alliance](#) commitment