



Individual Self Reflection 2020 on World Humanitarian Summit Commitments and Initiatives - Finland



Stakeholder Information

Organisation Name
Finland

Organisational Type
Member State

City and Country where Headquartered
Helsinki, Finland

Focal Point Name
Pilvi Taipale

Region
Europe

Twitter ID
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1B Act early

Joint Commitments

Commitment	Joint Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Finland, as Co-Chair with Turkey of the UN Group of Friends on Mediation, commits to enhance the visibility of mediation efforts and to bring mediation to the core of UN peace work. Through the work of the Group, Finland will strive to strengthen the normative basis of mediation and enhance the UN mediation support capacities. Finland will also capture, consolidate and disseminate good practices and lessons learnt on conflict prevention.	Turkey	Advocacy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to act early upon potential conflict situations based on early warning findings and shared conflict analysis, in accordance with international law.	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts
Commit to make successful conflict prevention visible by capturing, consolidating and sharing good practices and lessons learnt.	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

Finland is currently working to **enhance its results-based orientation** and communication on the results to a wider public. By the end of 2018 Finland will publish a Results-based Report covering the years 2015-2017, aiming to provide a holistic picture over the results achieved by its development cooperation and humanitarian action. Finland is also strengthening the theory of change-processes.



1D Develop solutions with and for people

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Finland will take forward the joint Nordic initiative of Nordic Women Mediator's Network and link the Nordic Women Mediators with women mediators from other countries and regions. Finland will continue to sponsor the series of UN High-level Seminars on Gender and Inclusive Mediation.	Policy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts
As women have a central role in achieving sustainable peace, Finland is committed to actively promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The implementation of Resolution 1325 is a priority for the Finnish Government. Finland will update its national Action Plan on 1325 and increase financial support to work on Action Plans in other countries and regional organizations.	Advocacy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts Leave No One Behind
Finland will promote gender-responsive approaches to natural resource-management in the context of peacebuilding and provide support to a pilot project on the topic. The project aims at identifying and supporting natural resource management practices that can empower women and contribute to peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery processes. The results of the country level pilots will be collected into a toolkit to serve UN country teams, international organizations and national actors.	Policy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts Leave No One Behind

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

Promoting gender equality is a long-standing priority for Finland. Finland has actively promoted the needs and rights and active participation of women and girls in the planning and decision making over humanitarian assistance. In 2017, Finland finalized its third national action plan on 1325, with commitments also related to humanitarian assistance. Finland also takes part of the Call to Action initiative, to combat sexual and gender-based violence. Finland requires that humanitarian organizations supported by the Finnish funding incorporate gender equality and disability issues into their policies and operations.

Keywords

Gender



3D Empower and protect women and girls

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
As women have a central role in achieving sustainable peace, Finland is committed to actively promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda and the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The implementation of Resolution 1325 is a priority for the Finnish Government. Finland will update its national Action Plan on 1325 and increase financial support to work on Action Plans in other countries and regional organizations.	Advocacy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts Leave No One Behind
Finland commits to empower women as leaders and agents of change in humanitarian action and supports their meaningful participation in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of all humanitarian action and programs.	Operational	Leave No One Behind
Finland requires that humanitarian organizations supported by Finnish funding will incorporate gender equality and rights of persons with disabilities into their policies and operations and ensure that humanitarian programming is gender and disability responsive.	Financial	Leave No One Behind
Finland will actively use its leverage and influence with international organizations to ensure that their programmes are responsive to the rights and needs of women and girls and persons with disabilities.	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind
Finland will promote gender-responsive approaches to natural resource-management in the context of peacebuilding and provide support to a pilot project on the topic. The project aims at identifying and supporting natural resource management practices that can empower women and contribute to peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery processes. The results of the country level pilots will be collected into a toolkit to serve UN country teams, international organizations and national actors.	Policy	Political Leadership to Prevent and End Conflicts Leave No One Behind

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.	Leave No One Behind
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcome documents of their review conferences for all women and adolescent girls in crisis settings.	Leave No One Behind



Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.	Leave No One Behind
Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity Leave No One Behind

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Keywords

Gender



3G Address other groups or minorities in crisis settings

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Finland endorses the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into Humanitarian Action and fully commits toward its implementation. Finland will support the development and implementation of the global standards and guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. The guidelines aim at system-wide improvement of addressing the needs and rights of people with disabilities in the context of humanitarian action. Finland stands ready to provide technical expertise and participate in the working/steering group developing the guidelines. Finland will also support the development of advocacy and awareness raising programmes.	Policy	Leave No One Behind
Finland will actively use its leverage and influence with international organizations to ensure that their programmes are responsive to the rights and needs of women and girls and persons with disabilities.	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind
Finland will ensure to review and address the possible gaps in terms of inclusion of persons with disabilities when updating its humanitarian policy.	Policy	Leave No One Behind
Finland will support the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all phases of humanitarian response. Finland continues to provide financial support to the strengthening of the rights and situation of persons with disabilities. Special attention will be paid to the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities as well as other persons that easily fall victim of multiple discrimination.	Operational	Leave No One Behind

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

With the spirit of leaving no one behind Finland has **promoted the situation of persons with disabilities** in humanitarian crises and raised the importance of addressing their humanitarian and protection needs and active involvement in all assistance efforts. In order to highlight the needs and rights of persons with disabilities and to transform humanitarian practices, Finland has actively promoted the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities into Humanitarian Action, launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

As a follow up, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) established a time-bound Task Team, to oversee the specific task of developing globally-endorsed Guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Finland has financially supported the work of the Task Team through UNICEF. Finland has organized and participated in events on the topic, including WFP Executive Board, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) humanitarian segment, etc. and by raising the issue in consultations with its partners and in negotiations, including the Global Compact for Refugees. In January 2018, Finland hosted a Global Action of Disability Network (GLAD) meeting in Helsinki, bringing together bilateral and multilateral donors, UN agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities as well as the private sector and foundations. In addition, the Minister of Trade and Development of Finland together with her colleagues from Australia, UK, New Zealand and Luxemburg sent a Letter to the UN Secretary General on the need to strengthen the inclusion of disability issues in the context of UN reforms.



4. Highlight actions planned for 2018 to advance implementation of your commitments in order to achieve this transformation.

In collaboration with World Vision, Finland has supported the development of simple and low-cost water and sanitation technological solutions and innovations that help the daily life of people with disabilities in refugee camps in Kenya, Uganda and Iraq. Finland has also supported actions aiming at strengthening the protection of persons with disabilities in forced displacement situations.

5. What steps or actions are needed to make collective progress to achieve this transformation?

As part of the project implemented by UNHCR in partnership with the Women's Refugee Commission, technical support for capacity-building has been provided, training materials and networks with disability actors have been developed, and work towards institutionalization of disability inclusion has progressed.

Keywords

Disability



4A Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Finland continues to encourage the humanitarian agencies and partners to increasingly use cash modalities, where appropriate.	Financial	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
In the context of Global Health Security Agenda, Finland is committed to enhancing International Health Regulation (IHR) core capacities at country level. Finland, together with the Nordic countries, is committed to collectively supporting 10 countries to meet their obligations under the IHR, including by developing and assisting with implementation of a national plan to achieve the targets of the Global Health Security Agenda. Finland is currently supporting capacity-building in Tanzania and Ukraine.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through the achievement of collective outcomes. To achieve this, commit to the following: a) Anticipate, Do Not Wait: to invest in risk analysis and to incentivize early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of known risks and hazards on people. b) Reinforce, Do Not Replace: to support and invest in local, national and regional leadership, capacity strengthening and response systems, avoiding duplicative international mechanisms wherever possible. c) Preserve and retain emergency capacity: to deliver predictable and flexible urgent and life-saving assistance and protection in accordance with humanitarian principles. d) Transcend Humanitarian-Development Divides: work together, toward collective outcomes that ensure humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years and based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors. The primacy of humanitarian principles will continue to underpin humanitarian action.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to reinforce national and local leadership and capacities in managing disaster and climate-related risks through strengthened preparedness and predictable response and recovery arrangements.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full and effective participation of women.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need
Commit to ensure regional and global humanitarian assistance for natural disasters complements national and local efforts.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need



<p>Commit to increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.</p>	<p>Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity</p>
<p>Commit to empower national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to local and national humanitarian actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities and preparedness planning.</p>	<p>Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity</p>

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Cash-based programming

Finland has continued to promote the **shift from in-kind of humanitarian aid towards cash and voucher based assistance**, through dialogue at the EU Council working party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) meetings and at the UN Executive Boards, especially in the World Food Programme (WFP). Finland has encouraged its non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to systematically considered cash as an important modality from the outset of the emergency and provided funding to the cash based programmes of Finnish NGOs. Finland provides a significant part of its funding as unearmarked or softly earmarked funds, which enables humanitarian agencies to allocate resources in an efficient way and have flexible funding available for cash transfer programming. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs also encourages its staff to participate in the training in the use of cash and social protection schemes. Finland underscores the importance of integrating gender issues into cash programming.

Keywords

Cash, Local action



4C Deliver collective outcomes: transcend humanitarian-development divides

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Finland commits to promote coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development programming and funding. Finland supports joint strategic situation analysis, needs assessments, planning and risk management and common decision-making platforms between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.	Advocacy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years through the achievement of collective outcomes. To achieve this, commit to the following: a) Anticipate, Do Not Wait: to invest in risk analysis and to incentivize early action in order to minimize the impact and frequency of known risks and hazards on people. b) Reinforce, Do Not Replace: to support and invest in local, national and regional leadership, capacity strengthening and response systems, avoiding duplicative international mechanisms wherever possible. c) Preserve and retain emergency capacity: to deliver predictable and flexible urgent and life-saving assistance and protection in accordance with humanitarian principles. d) Transcend Humanitarian-Development Divides: work together, toward collective outcomes that ensure humanitarian needs are met, while at the same time reducing risk and vulnerability over multiple years and based on the comparative advantage of a diverse range of actors. The primacy of humanitarian principles will continue to underpin humanitarian action.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

Other-4C

- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) has actively **promoted the humanitarian – development nexus** by organizing in-dept internal discussion and by developing a memo on the organization-wide actions required to enhance the nexus. Finland has developed a Syria-Iraq-strategy to bring humanitarian and development work closer together in its own work. Finland has supported the Syria Regional Response Plan and Refugee Plan, based on the vision that complex situations require a comprehensive response and better alignment of humanitarian and development assistance. Finland has also supported the No Lost Generation initiative. Finland supports the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework process and is committed to finding durable solutions for refugees and IDPs. The Unit for Humanitarian Unit and Policy from the MFA has participated in the discussions over 'New Way of Working' and is supports its further the operationalization in the field.

Keywords

Displacement, Humanitarian-development nexus



5C Invest in stability

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Finland will explore options for broadening financing mechanisms for the Finnish private sector and other organizations to carry out activities and establish new partnerships in fragile states, including public-private partnerships.	Financial	Invest in Humanity

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- Finland has actively engaged with OCHA through the **Connecting business initiative** to see how to best support and engage with the local private sector in humanitarian response.

Keywords

Disaster Risk Reduction, Private sector



5D Finance outcomes, not fragmentation: shift from funding to financing

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
As per the recommendation of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing Finland will provide at least 30 percent of its overall humanitarian funding as un-earmarked.	Financial	Invest in Humanity
Finland commits to promote coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development programming and funding. Finland supports joint strategic situation analysis, needs assessments, planning and risk management and common decision-making platforms between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation.	Advocacy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity
Finland continues providing substantial financial support to UN humanitarian agencies, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Finnish non-governmental organizations addressing the needs of the forcibly displaced.	Financial	Leave No One Behind Invest in Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to enable coherent financing that avoids fragmentation by supporting collective outcomes over multiple years, supporting those with demonstrated comparative advantage to deliver in context.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity
Commit to promote and increase predictable, multi-year, unearmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.	Invest in Humanity
Commit to broaden and adapt the global instruments and approaches to meet urgent needs, reduce risk and vulnerability and increase resilience, without adverse impact on humanitarian principles and overall action (as also proposed in Round Table on "Changing Lives").	Invest in Humanity

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures.

Multi-year core funding is an integral part of Finland's humanitarian policy and practice. Finland has continued to actively advocate for flexible core funding and further harmonization of reporting and procedures, in close collaboration with other like-minded donors. Finland currently provides more than 40% of its funding as core support and rest as softly earmarked funds. Last year Finland organised a special event during the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board to promote the use of unearmarked funding. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) employs multi-year framework agreements with several UN agencies including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and also with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Finland has further enhanced its multi-year humanitarian commitments in 2017



by increasing the core funding to ICRC. Finland is also a long-time supporter of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

In 2017, Finland **carried out an evaluation concerning the NGOs receiving Finland has reviewed the recommendations of the evaluation concerning the NGOs** receiving the MFA Programme Based Support and Humanitarian Aid. This included assessing the possibility to move from project-based humanitarian financing towards financing that better support the efficiency gains.



5E Diversify the resource base and increase cost-efficiency

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
Finland continues to provide predictable, multi-year, un-earmarked, flexible humanitarian funding in order to ensure greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people. Finland will advocate for harmonized donor reporting requirements.	Financial	Invest in Humanity
Finland continues to provide significant support to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).	Financial	Invest in Humanity
Finland welcomes the Grand Bargain between donors and humanitarian organizations.	Financial	Invest in Humanity

Core Commitments

Commitment	Core Responsibility
Commit to increase substantially and diversify global support and share of resources for humanitarian assistance aimed to address the differentiated needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises in fragile situations and complex emergencies, including increasing cash-based programming in situations where relevant.	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need Invest in Humanity
Commit to promote and increase predictable, multi-year, unearmarked, collaborative and flexible humanitarian funding toward greater efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of humanitarian action for affected people.	Invest in Humanity

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