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

Stakeholder Information

Organisation Name
INTERSOS

Organisational Type
NGO - International

City and Country where Headquartered
Rome, Italy

Focal Point Name
Kostas Moschochorits

Region
Global

Twitter ID
@Intersos

1B Act early

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. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

INTERSOS is an organization that works in conflicts and emergencies. In this sense, in 2018, the Organization focused on intervening in crisis areas and acting early upon potential and ongoing conflict situations. In fact, INTERSOS was very active, in 2018, in the Boko Haram crisis, in the Lake Chad region. It opened the mission in Niger, it consistently increased the volume of activities in Nigeria, being able to reach the most remote locations in Borno State, and responded at an earlier stage to the new humanitarian crisis in the Anglophone region of Cameroon. This last action, in particular, is clearly in line with the implementation of the Organization's commitment to act early upon potential and ongoing conflict situations.

Meanwhile, by being present in the most important humanitarian crises of the moment and by working on both sides of the conflicts, INTERSOS was able to have first-hand analyses of the situations in the countries where it's present. This increased the Organization's advocacy capacity. For instance, in Yemen, INTERSOS, together with other NGOs, conducted an advocacy campaign highlighting the consequences of the war and trying to avoid the escalation of the conflict, with particular attention to the situation in Hodeidah. On the same line, INTERSOS realized the multimedia project "Relocated Identities", aimed at finding solutions that could guarantee the legal status for Syrian Refugees in Jordan. This represented a critical action in the promotion of a durable and sustainable response to the Refugee Crisis.

These advocacy activities were significant and in line with INTERSOS' commitment to make successful conflict prevention visible.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

☑ Grand Bargain
☑ New Way of Working

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

☑ Field conditions, including insecurity and access
☑ Funding amounts

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

The lack of multi-year funding impacts the achievement of this transformation and reduces the capacity to plan and be predictable in the response. Moreover, administrative burdens and limited access represent serious problems in some of the crises where INTERSOS intervene, for instance in the Borno State in Nigeria.

3. What steps or actions are needed to make <u>collective progress</u> to achieve this transformation?

It is of the utmost importance to plan interventions in a coordinated way and to better share information. Moreover, it will be crucial to continue pledging for multi-year funding where it is more necessary. In addition to this, decision-making platforms should reflect the reality in the field and be based on first-hand information. Finally, NGOs and international agencies should be less risk-averse in trying to reach crisis areas.

Keywords

Displacement

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

Individual Commitments

Commitment	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility
INTERSOS commits to establishing a common approach to providing information to affected people and collecting, aggregating and analysing feedback from communities to influence decision-making processes at strategic and operational levels.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

1. A. Highlight concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2019 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures as well as any good practices and examples of innovation.

People-centered approaches (feedback mechanisms, community engagement, etc)

In 2018, INTERSOS worked on the implementation, revision and consolidation of the policy of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and of its Annex on Sexual Harassment. In particular, in 2018, the policy was rolled out in six missions. INTERSOS has a duty of care towards the beneficiaries of its programmes and at all times must put their best interests first. For this and other reasons the PSEA policy was developed, giving special attention to the empowering of beneficiaries and target communities. The existence of a complaint mechanism, in fact, gives the possibility to these categories to report any concern or relevant issue. Information to make them aware of the mechanism and multiple entry points allowing them to report at the organizational level or at the community level are guaranteed in each mission where the PSEA policy has been rolled out.

Cash-based programming

In 2018, INTERSOS paid particular attention to the development of cash-based programming. In fact, a cash-based intervention working group has been created. The group has been working on the harmonization of the cash-based response and in particular of the actions concerning cash protection. Moreover, two new personnel related to cash-based programming have been nominated: a focal point that interacts with missions on cash-based programming, and a Cash Expert for the missions in Jordan and Yemen, the two pilot missions for cash based interventions. Finally, in 2018, INTERSOS started working on a policy for cash-based intervention.

B. Please select if your report relates to any initiatives launched at World Humanitarian summit

☑ Grand Bargain
☑ New Way of Working

2. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation. Only the categories selected by the organisation will be seen below.

☑ Field conditions, including insecurity and access
☑ Funding amounts
☑ Human resources/capacity

B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

In order to ensure the implementation of the commitments, human resources and funding are needed. However, due to the lack of funding on these issues, staff members are often given multiple duties. Constraints are that the organization works in volatile settings, where global systems are often not perceived as priorities.

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

It is necessary to manage knowledge and share information in a better way at a global level. Specifically, a more efficient implementation of data science tools is needed to support and improve data analysis, so that programmes can be adapted to the evolving needs. Furthermore, field missions should participate more in the reporting of the commitments and they should as well be taken into consideration at global decision-making level.

Keywords

Cash, Local action, People-centred approach, PSEA