

# U.S. NGO Commitments for the World Humanitarian Summit

May 2016

The world faces unprecedented human suffering: 125 million people devastated by wars and natural disasters, including 60 million forced from their homes, the greatest population displacement since World War II; a blatant lack of respect for the protected status of civilians in armed conflict; and scores of protracted and recurring crises that keep millions of families trapped in cycles of violence and poverty, with no chance for a better future for their children. Recognizing the enormity of these challenges, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit to garner global support for concrete actions and commitments to a global agenda for humanity, to better serve the most vulnerable people in the world.

Against the aspirational framing of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, the undersigned U.S. NGOs make the following concrete commitments in our pursuit of effective humanitarian action that strives to 'leave no one behind'.

While not all commitments are relevant to the operations of each signatory, we stand together in a spirit of shared analysis of the challenges to humanity; the solutions needed to address them; and the systemic change that is within our power to catalyze.

## ***CORE RESPONSIBILITY ONE – Global leadership to prevent and end conflicts***

- We will advocate that political leaders and parties to conflict mitigate and end conflicts, and we will provide evidence of the human cost of resorting to violence to solve political problems.
- We will strive to aid in the prevention of crises through programming that mainstreams peace-building, conflict mitigation and good governance, with the goals of breaking cycles of conflict and fragility, and building the resilience of affected populations.

## ***CORE RESPONSIBILITY TWO – Upholding the norms that safeguard humanity***

- We will analyze and promote the adherence to norms that safeguard humanity in our response.
- We will demand adherence to the protections to which civilians and civilian objects are entitled, including the protection of humanitarian, educational and medical facilities and personnel.
- We will adhere to the guiding principles of humanitarian action – humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.
- We will pursue all principled means to ensure full access to, and protection of, people in greatest need.
- We will advocate for humanitarian exemptions to legal and policy restrictions that deprive vulnerable people of their rights, and inhibit our ability to assist people in need.
- We will eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse by our staff through the operationalization of policies that protect affected populations.

## ***CORE RESPONSIBILITY THREE – Leave no one behind***

- We will ensure information flow to and from affected people, in order to facilitate their active role in analysis and decision-making about strategic and operational issues from the earliest stages of a humanitarian response.
- We will hold ourselves accountable to the centrality of protection in every humanitarian response, to help ensure that people are free from violence, coercion, and deliberate deprivation during crises.

- We recognize that quality education is a life-saving intervention and we commit ourselves to expand access to education for people in crises, especially underserved populations, and to mobilize new re-sources accordingly.
- We will adopt and implement organizational policies and practices to strengthen gender equality.
- We will prioritize the prevention and response to gender-based violence, including the mitigation of risk, within all of our humanitarian programming.
- We commit to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and other specific needs in humanitarian action, and will design and implement programs that meet their needs in partnership with them.

#### ***CORE RESPONSIBILITY FOUR - Change people's lives – From delivering aid to ending need***

- We will collaborate with Government-led response leadership, to the extent that principled humanitarian action permits within any given context.
- We will go only where needed, ensuring that our support is based on a clear assessment of complementarity with national NGOs, local CSOs and other stakeholders, avoiding acting directly merely for fundraising or media attention goals.
- We will invest in the long-term capacity of our NGO and CSO partners, raising their profile through greater transparency on partnership arrangements.
- We will promote participation in decision-making and the leadership of affected people, especially underrepresented populations, to ensure the humanitarian and development programs and processes are accountable to them.
- We will invest our time and resources to continue to improve the connectivity between humanitarian and development programs within our own organizations. Where needed, we will make high level systems changes to our own structures and ways of working to ensure those we serve benefit from an approach that integrates humanitarian and development elements.
- We will be open and ready to use evidence-informed approaches, including cash-based programming, in our efforts to be as effective and responsive as possible to the needs of the populations we serve.
- We will make data and analysis the basis and driver for determining a common understanding of con-text, needs and capacities; reporting data into a common reporting platform accessible to all actors.
- We will advocate for action on early warning of natural hazard or conflict risks to mitigate the impacts of disasters and other humanitarian crises; wherever feasible, we will use our own resources to undertake early action on early warning, and invest in contingency planning for displacement due to disasters and climate change.

#### ***CORE RESPONSIBILITY FIVE – Invest in humanity***

- We will develop concrete organizational targets to increase direct and predictable financing to national and local actors, and advocate for long-term support to develop such actors' capacity to seek and manage funds and mitigate accompanying risks (including financial, security, safety, reputational, and legal).
- We will develop and implement more transparent program planning and reporting processes, in alignment with IATI standards, to drive efficiency gains and reduce duplicative costs.
- We will work with donors to support NGO-led financing mechanisms, collaborating amongst ourselves and with national NGOs to ensure that funding is effectively disbursed to NGO actors.
- We will invest in continuous learning as part of an approach to ensure our efforts are always relevant, adaptable, and accountable to people's priorities during crises.

**InterAction**  
Sam Worthington, CEO

**Action Against Hunger USA**  
Andrea Tamburini, CEO

**ActionAid International USA**  
Marie Clarke, Executive Director

**ADRA International**  
Jonathan Duffy, President & CEO

**Airlink**  
Steven J. Smith  
Executive Director

**Alliance for Peacebuilding**  
Melanie Greenberg,  
President & CEO

**American Jewish World Service**  
Ruth W. Messinger, President

**American Red Cross**  
David Meltzer, General Counsel & Chief International Officer

**American Refugee Committee**  
Daniel Wordsworth,  
President & CEO

**AmeriCares**  
Michael J. Nyenhuis  
President & CEO

**Amigos de las Américas**  
Sara Nathan, CEO

**Association of Volunteers in International Service, USA (AVSI USA)**  
Ezio Castelli, President

**BRAC USA**  
Sharad Aggarwal, Vice President

**Bread for the World**  
David Beckmann, President

**CARE USA**  
Michelle Nunn,  
President & CEO

**Church World Service**  
Rev. John L. McCullough  
President & CEO

**Concern Worldwide (U.S.) Inc.**  
Jack Haire, CEO

**Catholic Relief Services**  
Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo,  
President & CEO

**CBM-US**  
Caryl García,  
President & CEO

**CDA Collaborative Learning Projects**  
Peter J. Woodrow,  
Executive Director

**Doctors of the World USA**  
Miranda Sissons,  
Executive Director

**Episcopal Relief & Development**  
Dr. Robert W. Radtke,  
President

**Friends of ACTED**  
Marie-Pierre Caley, CEO

**Global Communities**  
David A. Weiss,  
President & CEO

**Global Links**  
Kathleen Hower,  
CEO, Co-Founder

**Habitat for Humanity International**  
Jonathan Reckford, CEO

**Handicap International**  
Jeff Meer, Executive Director

**Headwaters Relief Organization**  
Dr. Rebecca S. Hage Thomley  
President & CEO

**Heart to Heart International**  
James Mitchum, CEO

**Helen Keller International**  
Kathy Spahn,  
President & CEO

**HelpAge USA**  
Kate Bunting, CEO

**International Catholic Migration Commission**  
Johan Ketelers,  
Secretary General

**Information Management and Mine Action programs (IMMAP)**  
William Barron, CEO

**InsideNGO**  
Thomas Dente, CEO

**International Medical Corps**  
Nancy Ossey,  
President & CEO

**International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)**  
Constantine M. Triantafilou,  
Executive Director & CEO

**International Rescue Committee**  
David Miliband,  
President & CEO

**Islamic Relief USA**  
Anwar Khan, CEO

**Jesuit Refugee Service/USA**  
Armando Borja,  
National Director

**Keystone Human Services International**  
Charles J. Hooker, III,  
President & CEO

**Life for Relief and Development**  
Khalid Turaani, CEO

**Lutheran World Relief**  
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (Rt.),  
President & CEO

**Mennonite Central Committee U.S.**  
J Ron Byler,  
Executive Director

**Mercy Corps**  
Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO

**Oxfam America**  
Raymond C. Offenheiser,  
President

**PATH**  
Steve Davis, President & CEO

**Physicians for Peace**  
Lisa Arfaa,  
President and CEO

**Plan International USA**  
Tessie San Martin,  
President & CEO

**Population Communication**  
Robert Gillespie, President

**Project C.U.R.E.**  
W. Douglas Jackson,  
President & CEO

**Refugees International**  
Michel Gabaudan, President

**Relief International**  
Nancy E. Wilson,  
President & CEO

**Save the Children USA**  
Carolyn Miles,  
President & CEO

**Solar Cookers International**  
Julie Greene,  
Executive Director

**Stop Hunger Now**  
Rod Brooks, President & CEO

**Water for South Sudan**  
Lynn Malooly,  
Executive Director

**Women's Refugee Commission**  
Sarah Costa,  
Executive Director

**World Concern**  
Jacinta Tegman, President

**World Hope International**  
John Lyon, President & CEO

**World Neighbors**  
Kate Schecter, PhD  
President & CEO

**World Renew**  
Carol Bremer-Bennett  
Director, United States

**World Vision U.S.**  
Richard Stearns, President

**Zakat Foundation of America**  
Halil Demir, Director

