

“Success will now be defined by the achievement of measurable reductions in people’s humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.”

Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit

CORE COMMITMENTS

Tens of millions of people live in acute humanitarian need. Many millions more are vulnerable to socioeconomic shocks including conflict and natural hazards. While the existing aid model brings relief and advancement to many, too many people face protracted and recurrent crises that leave them dependent on aid or at risk of new or worsening shocks. The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) consultation process documented the widespread call for a “new way of working” that, as described in the Secretary-General’s report for the WHS (paragraphs 126-142), “moves beyond the comfort of traditional silos” to bring diverse actors together across mandates, sectors and institutional boundaries to achieve collective outcomes for people affected by crises.

Nothing should undermine the commitment to principled humanitarian action, especially in politically contested and violent conditions of armed conflict. Humanitarians must stand ready to deliver predictable, principled assistance and protection where it is needed. There is at the same time a shared moral imperative of preventing crises and sustainably reducing people’s levels of humanitarian need.

The new way of working and financing must promote coherence, as outlined by the Secretary-General in Core Responsibility Four of the Agenda for Humanity. In particular, the Secretary-General’s vision of delivering collective outcomes, over multiple years, based on comparative advantage guides this new model, and is enabled by common problem statements, empowered leadership, and coherent financing. The underlying shift places people at the center, by asking what it would take to reduce people’s risk and vulnerability and improve their development prospects, and then charting a course for collaboration with a diverse group of actors to achieve it.

Recognizing that the particular shape of new way of working will be determined by context, the approach aims to meet immediate needs in times of crisis, while also working actively to move people out of crises and on to a path toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The new way of working will not be possible without coherent financing that supports collective outcomes and avoids fragmentation (specific commitments on financing will be discussed in detail in the High-Level Leaders’ Roundtable on Investing in Humanity). These changes will require some form of progress measurement, in order to ensure accountability and to demonstrate impact over time.



#1
PREVENT AND
END CONFLICT



#2
RESPECT RULES
OF WAR



#3
LEAVE NO ONE
BEHIND



#4
WORKING DIFFERENTLY
TO END NEED



#5
INVEST IN
HUMANITY



Transcending the humanitarian-development divide and working toward collective outcomes represents a paradigm shift that has long been discussed but with the opportunity of the WHS, concrete commitments can now be made to put this into action.

- **Commitment 1: 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:

- * **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.
 - * **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.
 - * **Preserve and retain emergency capacity:** to deliver predictable and flexible urgent and life-saving assistance and protection in accordance with humanitarian principles.
 - * **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.
- **Commitment 2: 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.**

Note: for Core Commitment 2 specific targets and timeframes for advancing this commitment should be directed to the Financing-Investing in Humanity Roundtable.



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Changing People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

HIGH-LEVEL LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

SAMPLE COMMITMENTS

Commitment 1: Commit to a new way of working that meets people's immediate humanitarian needs, building toward reduced risk and vulnerability in the longer term through the achievement of collective outcomes

- ***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.**
 - [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to increase national capacity for risk analysis with by [increasing ## of staff/or establishment of institution] by [20XX].
 - [Name of Member State/ Organization] commits to adopt data privacy and security standards that will enable greater data sharing to inform a common risk awareness and stimulate early action by [20XX].
 - [Name of Member States/ Organization] commit to promote lessons learned, best practice and evidence based innovation through the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation.
 - [Name of Organization/s] commit to establish early warning systems with thresholds to trigger urban response protocols for city-level analysis, including urban housing analysis to ensure depiction of affected urban households.
- ***Reinforce, Do Not Replace:* to support and invest in national and local leadership and response systems wherever possible, avoiding duplicative international mechanisms.**
 - [Name of Member State/Organization/Business] commits to undertake/support capacity mapping in [name of country/ name of region, or ## environments facing recurrent and protracted crises], to inform capacity development and gap-filling by international and regional partners.
 - [Name of Organization] commits to support a “common approach” model for collective community engagement and accountability as a means to connect

- community feedback to strategic decision-making processes in ## countries by [20XX].
- [Name of Member State/Organization/Business] commits to support the Humanitarian Partnership Platform by [name action] to better utilize the contributions and comparative advantage of businesses in addressing risk and vulnerability at national and regional levels.
 - [Name of International Organization] commits to transition systematically from a leading delivery role to an advisory/ enabling role to national and local actors in ## countries by [year, wherever the context allows].
 - [Name of Organization] commits to translate into operational terms the goal of cash-based delivery of assistance as preferred method, where context allows.
- ***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.***
 - [Name of Organization/s] commits to improve synergy between humanitarian and development actors in ## pilot countries by [year] based on demonstrated comparative advantage relevant to each context.
 - [Name of Organization/s] jointly commit to adopt a new model of working, based on a coordinated analysis of vulnerability as well as other tools and processes such as multi-year planning that enable humanitarian-development collaboration to meet humanitarian needs, and reduce people's risk and vulnerability and increase resilience at national levels.
 - [Name of Organization/s] commit to establish performance benchmarks that could demonstrate collective contributions to the 2030 Agenda in ## pilot countries by [20XX].
 - [Name of Member State/Donor/Organization] commit to support the UN Resident Coordinator /Humanitarian Coordinator's leadership on the coordination of international engagement and to mobilize resources to support the delivery of collective outcomes.
 - [Name of Organization/s] commits to work with national counterparts, wherever possible, to expand access to sustainable social protection systems with a target of ## countries by [20XX].
 - [Name of Member State/Organization] commit to take measures to comprehensively reduce risk, vulnerability and fragility in [xx country] national and local development plans by [20XX].

Commitment 2: 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.

Note: for Core Commitment 2 specific targets and timeframes for advancing this commitment should be directed to the Roundtable on Financing.

- **Invest in coherence:** to finance collective outcomes so they can be achieved predictably and sustainably, and promote early action by development actors.
 - Name of Donor/s] commit to financing collective outcomes, based on multi-year plans and to the actor/s that have demonstrated comparative advantage.
 - [Name of Donor] Commit to actively explore ways to increase financing options (eg. short-term and long-term; grants, loans and other financing tools) to ensure humanitarian needs are met, and reduce people's risk and vulnerability, aimed at supporting the achievement of collective outcomes over multiple years.
 - [Name of Donor] commits to increase [expenditures on/technical assistance provided for] research and development to promote innovative solutions that reduce risk and vulnerability.
 - [Name of Member State/Donor/Organization] Commits to capitalize on the opportunities for self-recovery presented by cities and existing resources and services.