



World Humanitarian Summit Commitments

International Rescue Committee

2019

Individual commitments



Take concrete steps to improve compliance and accountability

Individual Commitments

Commitment Description	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility	Commitment ID
The IRC commits to leverage organizational and coalition leadership to advocate for humanitarian actors to prioritize GBV prevention and response as lifesaving from the onset of emergencies.	Advocacy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity	202019
The IRC commits to support the roll-out and implementation of the IASC GBV Guidelines through trainings and capacity building to personnel across humanitarian response sectors.	Policy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity	202024
The IRC will continue to build technical capacity on essential standards of a survivor-centered approach to GBV case management and data collection.	Capacity	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity	202026
The IRC will continue to conduct and disseminate rigorous research on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in humanitarian contexts.	Policy	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity	202027
The IRC will coordinate the Real Time Accountability Partnership (RTAP) at the global level and act as RTAP implementing partner, advancing work on a "framework for action" to reinforce accountability to GBV prioritization, integration, and coordination at strategic levels across the humanitarian program cycle (HPC).	Operational	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity	202028
The IRC will provide training, technical support, and small grants to 25 local organizations working across the Horn and East Africa, with the aim of advancing their internal GBV emergency preparedness and ability to engage in local and national preparedness and response efforts.	Operational	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity Invest in Humanity	202032

3A Reduce and address displacement

Individual Commitments

Commitment Description	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility	Commitment ID
Recognizing that the majority of the forced displaced now live in urban areas, the IRC subscribes to the commitments laid forward in the Global Urban Crisis Charter, which will be launched at the WHS. As a founding organization of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, the IRC commits to manage urban displacement as a combined human rights, humanitarian and development challenge and by working with local municipal authorities to address urban displacement in ways that are aligned with development trajectories.	Operational	Leave No One Behind	202007
The IRC commits to advocating for all durable solutions including the resettlement of refugees around the world as part of a "Global Compact on Responsibility-Sharing for Refugees."	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind	202011
The IRC commits to advocating for and advancing thinking towards a "New Approach for Response to Protracted Forced Displacement" based on its experience in delivering evidence-based outcomes.	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202013
The IRC commits to further expanding its scale as a resettlement agency and honing its skills to ensure those resettled are able to integrate and live in dignity in their new countries.	Operational	Leave No One Behind	202016

The IRC commits to improving the generation of data and relevant evidence around displacement solutions by making all of its programs either evidence-based or evidence-generating by 2020. The IRC will share this evidence in an effort to encourage the scaling of proven interventions to extend quality livelihood and educational opportunities as well as health and protection services to those impacted by forced displacement.	Operational	Leave No One Behind	202017
The IRC commits to lending technical assistance to countries as they establish or strengthen their resettlement systems based on its decades of experience resettling refugees in the United States.	Operational	Leave No One Behind	202018

Empower and protect women and girls

Individual Commitments

Commitment Description	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility	Commitment ID
IRC commits that 80% of all IRC country level strategic plans will incorporate commitments to gender equality.	Policy	Leave No One Behind	202003

Eliminate gaps in education for children, adolescents and young people

Individual Commitments

Commitment Description	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility	Commitment ID
Recognizing education for displaced children remains one of the most critical, yet least funded areas of responding to forced protracted displacement, the IRC commits to expanding quality education opportunities for children and helping shape the activities of the emerging Education Cannot Wait Platform. This includes sharing its existing and growing evidence base on the approaches that deliver quality education outcomes to children affected by crisis and lending technical support to the Platform Secretariat.	Operational	Leave No One Behind	202006



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

Individual Commitments

Commitment Description	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility	Commitment ID
In order to expand the scale and reach of its response to emergencies, the IRC commits to growing its partnership model by establishing relationships with three partner organizations in each of the countries on its "Emergency Watchlist." The IRC will work closely with local partner organizations to build emergency response strategies and to strengthen their capacity to respond by providing training and technical support.	Partnership	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202002
Over the next five years, the IRC is committed to delivering 25% of its humanitarian assistance through cash, up from 6% in fiscal year 2015, and to have active cash transfer programs in 75% of its country offices.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202004
Recognizing access to livelihoods is a key barrier in the ability of people impacted by emergencies to protect and provide for themselves, the IRC commits to identifying replicable processes for how jobs can be created quickly, efficiently and at scale in displacement contexts through its One Million Jobs Challenge. This will include conducting research, convening thought leaders and innovators and piloting cutting edge policy and practice strategies in a handful of relevant countries.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202005
Recognizing the transformative power of humanitarian cash transfers IRC commits to ensuring that cash is equally considered alongside other response modalities throughout a humanitarian response and that where feasible, cash is used as the preferred and default modality.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202009

<p>The IRC commits to delivering programming which is responsive to the perspectives of those people affected by forced displacement who it intends to serve - its clients. It will systematically and deliberately solicit its clients' views, and use them to inform decision making about what assistance to provide, to whom, when, where and how. The IRC will identify the most effective and efficient ways of capturing the perspectives of its clients, generating practical, evidence-based guidance for IRC and other humanitarian organizations. It will explore the incentives and behaviour patterns which influence the use of client feedback, and will seek to shift those through investments and strategies designed to promote a culture of responsiveness within the IRC. It will share this learning to help enrich the wider humanitarian system's understanding of client responsiveness and Accountability to Affected Populations, modelling new approaches to transparency and performance management in support of a transfer of power to its clients.</p>	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202014
<p>The IRC commits to significantly increasing the amount of funding available to support cash programming, including multi-purpose cash transfers.</p>	Financial	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202022
<p>The IRC will share innovation and learning on cash-based programming by, for example, publishing studies on the cost efficiency of unconditional cash transfers versus non-food item programs; a framework for estimating Digital Financial Services scale-up needs in order to support more efficient humanitarian response; a Return on Investment analysis for the expansion of digital financial services; the IRC Cash Preparedness Planning Toolkit and lessons learned from its use in Ethiopia and other countries.</p>	Policy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202033

The IRC, as a member of the Cash Learning Partnership, commits to working with states, humanitarian agencies and the private sector to reach consensus on the approaches required to scale-up humanitarian cash transfers and to answer the call to action laid out in the Agenda for Cash.	Partnership	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202034
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4C Deliver collective outcomes: transcend humanitarian-development divides

Individual Commitments

Commitment Description	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility	Commitment ID
Recognizing the rising severity and number of humanitarian emergencies, the IRC commits to dedicate resources to respond concurrently to four emergencies and support survival at scale within 72 hours of breaking crises by 2020.	Capacity	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202008
The IRC commits to a new approach to addressing humanitarian need and reducing vulnerability by orienting all of its efforts toward delivering on key outcome areas critical to the lives of those affected by disaster and conflict: Economic Wellbeing, Safety, Health, Education and Power. IRC will use its new Outcomes and Evidence Framework (OEF) - which includes evidence-based theories of change and core indicators - as a tool aimed at ensuring real progress towards reducing vulnerability and improving the resilience, self-reliance and protection of refugees, IDPs and host communities.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202010
The IRC commits to advocating for and advancing thinking toward enhanced collaboration between a wider set of actors in response to humanitarian crises over more appropriate timeframes based on its experience in delivering evidence-based outcomes.	Advocacy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202012

The IRC commits to advocating for and advancing thinking towards a "New Approach for Response to Protracted Forced Displacement" based on its experience in delivering evidence-based outcomes.	Advocacy	Leave No One Behind Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202013
The IRC commits to making all of its programs evidence-based or evidence-generating by 2020. This means that programs are based on theories of change informed by the best available evidence and that all programs monitor outcomes. Where programs do not have strong evidence, it is investing time and resources in creating the most meaningful, actionable and useful evidence for staff and others in the humanitarian community upon which to base program decisions. This means focusing attention on generating high-quality evidence across various contexts that: addresses pertinent and pressing challenges to achieving our outcomes; contributes to and is based on an existing body of knowledge; fills critical gaps in our current understanding; and serves relevant decision-making by humanitarian practitioners and policymakers. IRC's use of this evidence will promote the implementation of high-impact and cost-effective programs, and enable it to influence the adoption and scale of such interventions by peer practitioners to achieve significant and sustained improvements in the lives of crisis-affected populations.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202020
The IRC commits to making its new Outcomes and Evidence Framework a public resource for use by other organizations and to inform similar efforts among major donors and institutions.	Policy	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202021

The IRC commits to simultaneously conducting needs assessments that lead to accountable programs for early recovery and tailoring programs with communities to ensure a connection from relief to recovery.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202023
The IRC has committed to focus its programming and define its program success on the basis of measurable improvements in people's lives in five outcome areas: Health, Economic Wellbeing, Safety, Education and Power. Further, the increasingly protracted nature of displacement and sheer number of people affected by conflict requires humanitarian and development institutions to align efforts around clear, measurable and jointly shared goals. This is needed to increase the impact of collective actions, determine sustainable solutions and better respond to the needs of conflict-affected and displaced people no matter where they live.	Operational	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202025
The IRC will help strengthen existing Solutions Alliance national groups, establish new ones where appropriate and engage at country level to foster greater collaboration among all stakeholders, namely governments, UN agencies, donors and civil society.	Partnership	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202030
The IRC will leverage its role as member of the Executive Board of the Solutions Alliance to develop guidance on how specifically UN agencies, governments, bilateral donors and NGOs can work together to establish joint outcomes, planning, budgeting, implementation and collective learning.	Partnership	Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need	202031

Invest in local capacities

Individual Commitments

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The IRC will provide training, technical support, and small grants to 25 local organizations working across the Horn and East Africa, with the aim of advancing their internal GBV emergency preparedness and ability to engage in local and national preparedness and response efforts.	Operational	Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity Invest in Humanity	202032
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5E Diversify the resource base and increase cost-efficiency

Individual Commitments

Commitment Description	Commitment Type	Core Responsibility	Commitment ID
The IRC will further refine its pioneering costing process in humanitarian interventions and make it publicly available for donors and other organizations to use. Specifically the IRC will: use cost analyses systematically in the IRC's decision-making on new programs; update finance and budget-tracking systems to allow easier cost analysis for future proposals and programs, and publish about its systems so other organizations can learn from its experience; publish the results of its cost analyses reports for public use; raise awareness and use of cost analysis with other actors in the humanitarian sector, including donors and implementers, by promoting a common methodology, a process for incorporating cost analysis into the project management life-cycle, and a standard for what cost data should be reported publicly.	Financial	Invest in Humanity	202029

Core Commitments

Leave No One Behind

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND - A COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS FORCED DISPLACEMENT

- Commit to a new approach to addressing forced displacement that not only meets immediate humanitarian needs but reduces vulnerability and improves the resilience, self-reliance and protection of refugees and IDPs. Commit to implementing this new approach through coherent international, regional and national efforts that recognize both the humanitarian and development challenges of displacement. Commit to take the necessary political, policy, legal and financial steps required to address these challenges for the specific context.
- Commit to promote and support safe, dignified and durable solutions for internally displaced persons and refugees. Commit to do so in a coherent and measurable manner through international, regional and national programs and by taking the necessary policy, legal and financial steps required for the specific contexts and in order to work towards a target of 50 percent reduction in internal displacement by 2030.
- Acknowledge the global public good provided by countries and communities which are hosting large numbers of refugees. Commit to providing communities with large numbers of displaced population or receiving large numbers of returnees with the necessary political, policy and financial, support to address the humanitarian and socio-economic impact. To this end, commit to strengthen multilateral financing instruments. Commit to foster host communities' self-reliance and resilience, as part of the comprehensive and integrated approach outlined in core commitment 1.
- Commit to collectively work towards a Global Compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees to safeguard the rights of refugees, while also effectively and predictably supporting States affected by such movements.
- Commit to actively work to uphold the institution of asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. Commit to support further accession to and strengthened implementation of national, regional and international laws and policy frameworks that ensure and improve the protection of refugees and IDPs, such as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol or the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala convention) or the Guiding Principles on internal displacement.

WOMEN AND GIRLS: CATALYZING ACTION TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

- Empower Women and Girls as change agents and leaders, including by increasing support for local women's groups to participate meaningfully in humanitarian action.
- Ensure that humanitarian programming is gender responsive.

Uphold the Norms that Safeguard Humanity

WOMEN AND GIRLS: CATALYZING ACTION TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

- Implement a coordinated global approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in crisis contexts, including through the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies.
- Fully comply with humanitarian policies, frameworks and legally binding documents related to gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights.

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

CHANGING PEOPLE'S LIVES - FROM DELIVERING AID TO ENDING NEED

- 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.
- 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.

HUMANITARIAN FINANCING - INVESTING IN HUMANITY

- 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.
- 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.

Invest in Humanity

HUMANITARIAN FINANCING - INVESTING 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.