OCHA World Humanitarian Summit Commitments Progress Report

Commitment 1.

OCHA commits to ensure that protecting people from harm and supporting their rights and dignity remains central throughout its mandated areas of work.

What led your section to make the commitment?

OCHA supports the ERC and Humanitarian Coordinators in meeting their leadership responsibilities and ensuring that core protection priorities inform and are central to humanitarian decision-making and response. This commitment aimed toward improving State and non-state compliance with IHL and IHRL in armed conflict, and to enable improved humanitarian access and protection of civilians as well as humanitarian and medical personnel.

What are the major achievements concrete actions taken to accomplish the commitments? What are the results of these actions?

OCHA has taken concrete steps, including through advocacy and policy, to pursue a global effort, as called for in the Agenda for Humanity to enhance the protection of civilians. In 2016, the ERC referred to access and the protection of civilians in over 75% of public available statements, including at the Security Council. OCHA organized IHL discussions during the Global Humanitarian Policy Forum and ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, and participated in a range of meetings, mobilizing stakeholders to play a role in enhancing protection, and to call for improved practices relating to the protection of medical care, food security, and urban warfare, among other issues. OCHA also published in 2016 the Oxford Guidance on the law governing relief operations, and will soon launch its follow-up study "To Stay and Deliver". It is also actively encouraging implementation of the SG's recommendations on the protection of medical care in armed conflict.

How are you assessing progress?

OCHA is assessing progress by maintaining and updating a list of desired activities in the pursuit of its WHS commitments. OCHA is also assessing progress by monitoring the extent to which its own leadership, States and other key stakeholders express OCHA's concerns and take forward recommendations.

What are some of the challenges you faced in the implementation

Limited resources (human and financial) which would facilitate direct field engagement, enable increased training and workshops - for a variety of actors and partners.

What are the next steps to advance implementation of commitments in 2017?

OCHA has a series of steps planned for 2017, including a high-level panel discussion on IHL, humanitarian principles and humanitarian assistance during the 2017 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, a protection of civilians theme for World Humanitarian Day, discussions around the protection of medical care in armed conflict, the launch of a compilation of practice on civilian harm mitigation in armed conflict, and other measures. OCHA will also continue to ensure protection is integrated as much as possible into HRPs.

One message for the annual report on what is needed to advance this commitment.

All States and relevant stakeholders have a role to play in enhancing the protection of civilians, and all must use their influence and leverage to shift political will and ensure that parties to conflict comply with international law and protect civilians in armed conflict.

Commitment 2.
OCHA commits to promote and facilitate full integration of SGBV prevention and response in all humanitarian action, including at all stages of the humanitarian programming cycle.

Commitment 3.
OCHA commits to promote and support gender-responsive policy, planning and programming, including prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence at all levels of humanitarian action.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

OCHA is fully committed to gender equality programming in humanitarian action and is working towards improving humanitarian outcomes that effectively respond to and meet identified needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men. OCHA is taking a gender responsive approach to enhance accountability to gender equality programming in humanitarian action, where the WHS commitments have been mainstreamed into OCHA's Policy Instruction on Gender Equality 2016-2020. The WHS commitments are also a platform for promoting collective efforts, ensuring that the gender commitments can be translated into concrete actions and outcomes across the humanitarian sphere.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

Promote and facilitate fully integration of SGBV prevention and response in all humanitarian action, including at all stages of the Humanitarian Programming Cycle; To support the gender and GBV programming in the Humanitarian Needs Overview's (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan's (HRP), OCHA developed tools and guidance for use by the gender focal points at country and regional level. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) includes a line of inquiry that aims to determine whether projects are designed to prevent and respond to GBV or if they have dedicated GBV prevention or response component. OCHA is also a member of the Real Time Accountability Partnership (RTAP) in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, IRC, USAID, and UNHCR and during 2016 a five country baseline was conducted. Additionally, ERC-HC compacts have incorporated gender, GBV and PSEA deliverables. Various high level advocacy events and key messaging were developed during the WHS, with a focus on the prevention and response to GBV in emergencies. Follow up events during ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, the UN General Assembly, and the Global Humanitarian Policy Forum were organised to further advocate and work collectively with other actors. OCHA participated also in key global

events such as the 16 days of activism against gender based violence through dedicated social media campaigns.

Promote and support gender-responsive policy, planning and programming, including prevention and response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence at all levels of humanitarian action: OCHA's policy instruction on gender equality, endorsed in June 2016, is promoting gender-responsive humanitarian programme cycle processes, making this one out of the seven priority commitments in the gender policy. The aim is to strengthen gender equality programing in humanitarian action. OCHA has improved the use of a gender analysis through developing tools and guidelines, in addition to reviewing existing information products. For example, a light review of selected HNOs was conducted to assess the use of gender analysis. Existing tools such as the Gender marker, gender handbook, and IASC GBV guidelines have been included in training modules and promoted through monthly gender community of practice sessions and gender training for staff. An online gender implementation toolkit has also been developed for OCHA staff, and provides in-depth guidance and good practices of how to integrate gender into all of OCHA's work.

Facilitate meaningful and effective engagement of affected people and communities in humanitarian action, in particular that of women and girls; OCHA has strengthened partnership and organised events with specialized UN agencies and INGOs such as ActionAid, to promote women as first responders, and advocate for the equal participation of women in any response and their leadership in decision-making bodies. In addition, OCHA has developed gender responsive communication and advocacy products highlighting the role of women and girls of different ages and backgrounds leading response and building resilience in their respective communities.

How are you assessing progress?

The WHS commitments on gender are aligned with the OCHA gender policy instruction on gender equality. In addition, the strategic planning documents for both Country and Regional Offices also contain gender-specific indicators. As a result, the annual planning and monitoring process is integrating OCHA's gender commitments. Implementing the priorities enshrined in OCHA's Gender Policy Instruction 2016-2020, applying key roles and responsibilities for branches and offices on OCHA's seven priority commitment on gender equality programming remains crucial for delivery.

Challenges faced in implementation

The main overall challenge has been to secure earmarked resources for gender equality programming and GBV programming. In addition, the gender commitments are long-term, and it takes time to achieve and measure progress.

The need to ensure capacity building of all OCHA staff on gender is crucial for prioritizing gender and GBV programming. Monthly community of practice sessions for the OCHA Gender Focal Points have been a means of strengthening the capacity on gender in the HPC, in addition to providing staff with a gender toolkit that includes checklist and guidelines on how to integrate gender.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

OCHA will continue with the work of implementing the gender policy instruction which is aligned with the WHS commitments, setting out priority commitments and key deliverables for OCHA staff.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

Adequately resources for gender equality programming: The SG report for the WHS emphasise on taking individual and shared responsibility by making strategic, operational and policy shifts. In order to move forward to empower and protect women and girls, there is need to enhance global accountability and predictable funding and resources for the delivery of gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes.

Commitment 4.
OCHA commits to strengthen effective coordination of protection and assistance to IDPs and host communities so as to reduce vulnerability and promote self-reliance.

Commitment 5.

OCHA commits to strengthen capacity to work on internal displacement.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

Internal displacement is at an all-time high, surpassing the number of refugees worldwide, with many people displaced for years without solutions. The Summit was a key moment to promote a new approach to protracted displacement, one which requires policy, programmatic and financial shifts whereby humanitarian and development actors work towards collective outcomes, ideally in support of national Governments, to reduce the vulnerabilities of IDPs and host communities - and the number of IDPs over time.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

Following the Summit, OCHA commissioned a major research endeavour on protracted internal displacement. The study looked into defining how the New Way of Working can be applied in such situations, to ensure solutions to long-term challenges. The study will be published in May 2017. OCHA worked closely with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, and provided advice to UNCTs on specific displacement situations, as per its commitments. The ERC also published, together with partners, an open letter advocating for increased international attention to the plight of IDPs in late 2016, building not only on the WHS, but also the UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants.

How are you assessing progress?

Progress is assessed through internal and external feedback. Donors, UN and NGO partners, the IASC WG, as well as specific OCHA offices, have welcomed the approach proposed in the commissioned-study.

Challenges faced in implementation

Some of the early challenges identified are that IDPs are often not considered as a priority by the Governments concerned, and complex institutional arrangements to deal with this issue in-country can impede progress. At the international level, other pressing issues such as dealing with large movements of refugees and migrants have taken precedence over dealing with internal displacement issues.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

The next step involves assessing the extent to which partners adopt the IDP study's recommendations, including on setting collective outcomes. Once the IDP study is published, its findings will have to be further rolled out in relevant countries together with humanitarian and development partners. The goal will be to further test the development of collective outcomes in specific situations of protracted internal displacement. This work will have to be closely associated with the roll-out of the New Way of Working in different countries.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

Raise the profile of the issue of internal displacement on the international agenda to improve the lives of IDPs, particularly in protracted internal displacement, and obtain practical commitments and pledges from Governments, international development, humanitarian, financial and private sector organizations.

Commitment 6.

OCHA commits to facilitate meaningful and effective engagement of affected people and communities in humanitarian action, in particular that of women and girls

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

In order to adequately address needs and promote effective humanitarian response, humanitarian organizations should ensure collection and analysis of feedback from communities, to inform humanitarian programming. This is also a way of ensuring affected community participation in decision-making and providing them with useful and lifesaving information. OCHA also made the commitment to promote a culture-shift in the humanitarian system which should prioritise engagement with affected communities in all phases of humanitarian programming.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

OCHA developed guidance for country offices on integrating community engagement in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle and facilitated several trainings.

OCHA has strengthen partnership by co-leading a global process for collective service delivery in emergencies and organised events with specialized UN agencies and INGOs

such as ActionAid, to promote women as first responders, and advocate for the equal participation of women in any response and their leadership in decision-making bodies.

OCHA also developed gender responsive communication and advocacy products highlighting the role of women and girls of different ages and background in leading response and building resilience. HNOs incorporated a gender analysis. Several Humanitarian Response Plans provide sex and age disaggregated data and gender analysis for people in need and people targeted.

How are you assessing progress?

Progress is being assessed through the Grand Bargain process, under the Participation Revolution workstream, led by the US State Department and SCHR. OCHA is also using the Core Humanitarian Standard self-assessment tools at the global level and country offices to assess progress. Review of HNOs and HRPs also facilitate assessment of progress.

Challenges faced in implementation

Slow adaptation of change by some of the field partners who are still used to the old way of responding to humanitarian needs. A cultural shift must occur within the humanitarian system for the commitments to be successfully implemented since OCHA works with the rest of the system to facilitate implementation at field level. This will take time, requiring advocacy and best practices to be widely shared and applied.

Lack of gender disaggregated data collected by some operational agencies. Limited focus of the response analysis to clearly identify the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls and the specific interventions required.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

Establishing collective services for community engagement in selected countries, with a particular focus on ensuring that participation and feedback of women and girls influence responses in these contexts.

Continue to encourage sex- and age-disaggregated data and their use in needs analysis. Further guidance on strengthening the gender dimension in the response analysis will continue to be provided to field offices and partners.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

Senior leadership at country level, particularly from Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators is of outmost importance if community engagement is to be an integral part of humanitarian responses. Increase the capacity of entities involved in data collection to include sex- and age-disaggregated data.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

An awareness through a number of reviews that field-coordinators and inter-cluster coordinators required practical guidance on strengthening AAP as part of the day to day coordination and response activities.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

Practical checklists and suggested actions for clusters and inter-cluster coordination groups to strengthen AAP and protection through each stage of the HPC were developed by OCHA and the GCCG the Protection Mainstreaming Task Team and the IASC AAP/PSEA Task Team based on extensive discussions with the membership of these various groups. AAP Tip Sheet compiling best practice and practical approaches to AAP for OCHA staff was developed and disseminated to OCHA field offices. Field support missions conducted by OCHA/ICCS and the GCCG include an AAP component in all workshops. OCHA staff being trained on the HPC receive training on AAP in a dedicated module. OCHA/ICCS also provides day to day guidance upon the request of OCHA offices on addressing AAP questions arising in the field.

How are you assessing progress?

AAP is a distinct workstream for the ICCS and is reported on at regular intervals.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

OCHA committed to support and facilitate the use of multi-purpose cash (MPC) alongside other response modalities and to ensure that cash transfer programming (CTP) is fully integrated into coordination structures. These commitments recognise the potential of CTP and in particular multi-purpose cash, to increase effectivness and accountability of responses by placing choice in the hands of affected people. By understanding the most appropriate type of response (feasibility), including where social protection systems exist during preparedness and by ensuring cash is built into coordination systems humanitarian organisations can maximise their options for effective response.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?
OCHA has partnered in 4 countries to carry out joint cash feasbility studies as part of a preparedness project. OCHA has also undertaken a light cash feasibility review with CaLP in

Cameroon and will roll out more feasiblity studies in Nigeria and Somalia in the coming months. OCHA is also working with Regional Offices in integrating these considerations into the Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs) and Advanced Preparedness Actions (APAs). OCHA is also providing guidance to ensure cash is built into all aspects of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, particualrly for the assessments, response analysis and response planning. During this last year (2016), 13 HRPs included explicit reference to cash transfer as a modality and three HRPs had chapters on multi-purpose cash (as agreed at country level). Additionally, at least 8 country offices have included cash into the core 4Ws and more are planned in the coming year.

How are you assessing progress?

OCHA is tracking the number of country offices which have completed and planned cash feasiblitiy exercises and is also monitoring both the guidance and the production of documents along the HPC which are inclusive of cash.

Challenges faced in implementation

As cash is inherently a multi-stakeholder issue which has programme, operational and policy level implications, any implementation of commitments must be undertaken with full buy in of all stakeholders and without clear global guidance on some issues (e.g. multi-purpose cash in the HRP and cash feasibility decisions).

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

OCHA will continue to ensure that cash and multi-purpose cash is integrated into all coordination systems. OCHA will continue to invest in the development of cash feasibility and other activities to improve preparedness. OCHA will review existing IASC guidance on coordinated assessments to enhance market analysis that inform decisions on cash-based responses.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

Continued commitment by all actors to the increased consideration and use of multi-purpose cash and ongoing dialogue about the potential for a more national led, multi-sectoral approach to humanitarian responses.

Commitment 10.
OCHA commits to ensuring that cash transfer programming is fully integrated into coordination structures, and to ensuring CERF and country-based pooled funds are cash ready' to facilitate the programming and delivery of multisector cash-based programs.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

OCHA recognises the potential of cash transfer programming CTP and in particular multi-purpose cash, to increase effectivness and accountability of responses by placing choice in the hands of affected people. OCHA committed to leveraging the use of pooled funding mechanisms (CERF and CBPFs) to promote enhanced collective accountability and community engagement in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

Two papers outlining an OCHA-wide strategy on localization and key deliverables, activities and indicators of progress to operationalize localization issues in relation to coordination, humanitarian financing, and partnerships and capacity strengthening were drafted. In addition, ICCS has facilitated a Global Cluster Coordinators Group working group on localization with the objective of developing a coordination capacity mapping tool, updating the IASC Guidance Note on Working with National Authorities and spearheading behavioural change across clusters to facilitate local actors' access and participation in coordination mechanisms was established. In addition a webinar is being organized on localization highlighting best practice and aimed at inter-cluster coordinators, cluster coordinators, UN agencies and NGOs. Practical tips to enhance localisation at the field level will be complied and shared.

There have been efforts to implement the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and involve affected people in the response, by consulting with them at the planning stage, and by engaging with them to monitor the delivery of international assistance, but these efforts are still limited

An increasing number of HRPs clearly outline the crucial operational role of national and local partners in providing humanitarian assistance, when appropriate and feasible. Collective response strategies, as well as cluster/sector plans, also outline partnership arrangements and joint implementation modalities with national and local actors.

OCHA has also undertaken a light cash feasibility review with CaLP in Cameroon and will roll out more feasiblity studies in Nigeria and Somalia in the coming months. OCHA is also working with Regional Offices in integrating these considerations into the Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs) and Advanced Preparedness Actions (APAs). OCHA is also providing guidance to ensure cash is built into all aspects of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, particualrly for the assessments, response analysis and response planning. During this last year (2016), 13 HRPs included explicit reference to cash transfer as a modality and three HRPs had chapters on multi-purpose cash (as agreed at country level). Additionally at least 8 country offices have included cash into the core 4Ws and more are planned in the coming year.

CERF promotes AAP by ensuring that it is incorporated and made visible throughout the CERF programme cycle. AAP is reflected in CERF proposals through a number of questions in the new CERF application template at different levels of the submission (i.e. at strategic, sectoral and project levels). To further strengthen information on AAP in the CERF programme cycle AAP has been included as a separate project reporting item for recipient agencies in the new CERF narrative reporting template.

How are you assessing progress?

AAP is a distinct workstream for the ICCS and is reported on at regular intervals

Continuous review of HNOs and HRPs

OCHA is tracking the number of country offices which have completed and planned cash feasiblitiy exercises and is also monitoring both the guidance and the production of documents along the HPC which are inclusive of cash.

As part of CERF's Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF), the CERF secretariat each year commissions a number of independent country reviews to assess CERF's added value in supporting humanitarian action in specific emergencies. The reviews assess CERF operations according to a number of performance indicators from the PAF, one of which relates to whether CERF recipient agencies have incorporated the AAP commitments into their programme approaches.

Challenges faced in implementation

An agreed approach for the analysis of the severity of needs has yet to be developed. At the moment it lacks a conceptual framework that can explain how the indicators and severity thresholds were chosen in different contexts.

As cash programming involves multi-stakeholders, any implementation of commitments require full buy in of all stakeholders and this remains a challenge if there are no clear global guidance on some issues (e.g. multi-purpose cash in the HRP and cash feasibility decisions).

CERF is not itself an operational entity. It, therefore, relies on its grant recipients to implement CERF-funded projects in accordance with AAP principles and monitors this through mainstreaming AAP throughout its project cycle.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

- Continue to encourage agencies to consult affected people not only at the data collection stage for the needs assessment, but at the analysis stage when conclusions are made on needs and priorities.
- Pursue the ongoing work on the development of an inter-sectoral analysis framework, including severity.
- Assist with a shift from one-off HNOs and HRPs to a more continuous monitoring approach of risks, needs and response that enable data and information to be made available on a more timely manner for decision-making
- Review existing IASC guidance on coordinated assessments to enhance market analysis that inform decisions on cash-based responses.
- Identify and share good examples where the humanitarian community engaged with national and local actors to assess humanitarian needs, and plan, deliver and monitor humanitarian assistance.
- Ensure that cash and multi-purpose cash is integrated into all coordination systems. OCHA will continue to invest in the development of cash feasibility and other activities to improve preparedness including cash.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

- Build on new technologies to enhance two-way communication between agencies and affected people and communities, especially when direct access is impaired
- Continued commitment by all actors to consider use of multi-purpose cash and ongoing dialogue about the potential for a more national led, multi-sectoral approach to humanitarian responses.

Commitment 11.

OCHA commits to promote preparedness efforts by all relevant actors.

Commitment 12

OCHA commits to supporting countries that undertake multi-year planning for risk reduction and promoting of sustainable development.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

The humanitarian sector has recognized the need for a more risk-based anticipatory approach for a number of years, and various publications reinforced that need, for example, "Dare To Prepare" report (2013) and "Saving Lives Today and Tomorrow" (2014). The key recognition on the importance of the prevention approach is that it relates both to the predictable crises (often natural disasters), as well as the more complex unpredictable crises (conflicts). OCHA needed to increase the engagement with development, peace actors, international financial institutions and private sector to support early warning and early action processes which are integral to effective preparedness.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

OCHA engaged with a wider group of stakeholders outside of the humanitarian sphere, including development institutions (UNDP), development mechanisms (SDGs, QCPR, UNDG, FFD), MDBs (World Bank, etc), Regional Organizations (AU, GCC, ASEAN,), peacebuilding forums (HIPPO, AGE, SPG, PCG,). OCHA continues to support the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) as an established measurement of humanitarian risk and also the Global Preparedness Partnership. The Emergency Response Preparedness continues to be rolled out in a number of countries.

As of 2017, several countries, in particular those that embarked on a multi-year plan , have engaged development partners throughout the humanitarian planning process and initiated programmatic area or crisis- based approaches to strengthen complementarity as well as coherence of humanitarian, development and peace support.

OCHA supported 8 multiyear humanitarian strategies leading into 2017 and continued policy dialogue to refine the understanding of the New Way of Working in crises as well as in country contexts where multiyear HRPs are not present.

Through a flexible Joint Inter-sectoral Analysis Group (JIAG) with partners, OCHA has embarked in the development of an inter-sectoral analysis 'model' that should include an identification of risks, vulnerabilities and capacities. OCHA is also working with partners on a possible global severity index. In protracted crises with a certain degree of political stability and security, the humanitarian community has further engaged with government, development and peace actors to ensure underlying vulnerabilities and root causes of humanitarian needs are addressed over a multi-year horizon.

How are you assessing progress?

Monitoring and review of 2017 Humanitarian Response plans (HRPs) including multi-year HRPs and multi-year humanitarian strategies and adjusting of various guidance. OCHA also assesses progress by analysing how organisations utilise INFORM for annual planning. Regular exchanges with the partners involved in the JIAG.

Challenges faced in implementation

The anticipatory approach requires a fundamental reshaping of both the humanitarian and development systems. This means that the roll-out will take time, and the results may vary. Mobilising adequate funding for preparedness also continues to be a challenge.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

OCHA will share good practices with countries that implement multi-year planning in order to better reflect early actions and emergency response preparedness efforts where appropriate. It will continue to roll out the Emergency Response preparedness approach strengthening Minimum and Advanced Preparedness Actions monitoring and updates. OCHA will work closely with partners and provide guidance on application of INFORM at sub-national levels.

Continue to facilitate the JIAG and test the model in the field as soon as possible to inform its development and make sure that it is useful at field level.

Provide further support to, and share good practices with countries that decide to embark on multi-year humanitarian planning. Better reflect early actions and emergency response preparedness efforts in multi-year plans, where appropriate.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

Use risk information as a basis for planning and financing, including for collective outcomes. Achieving the SDGs will be challenging if development is not risk-informed.

Commitment 13.

OCHA commits to improve transparency and accountability throughout the humanitarian program cycle.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

People and local communities are not only beneficiaries, but key partners to define the humanitarian support required to address their needs, monitor its delivery and assess its effectiveness.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

Limited progress noted in the 2017 HNOs on engagement of local people and communities in needs assessments. Yemen is a good example. Efforts have been noted on increasing the transparency of the severity of needs analysis, which feeds directly in the prioritisation done at the subsequent HRP stage (the review of the specific contents of the 2017 HNOs is ongoing and no hard data is yet available to quantify the various progresses)

How are you assessing progress?

Review of 2017 HNOs

Review of 2017 HRPs, monitoring reports

Challenges faced in implementation

Operational agencies' limited direct access to affected people and communities. An agreed upon approach for the analysis of the severity of needs has yet to be developed. At the moment it lacks a conceptual framework that can explain how the indicators and severity thresholds were chosen in different contexts.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

Continue to encourage agencies to consult affected people not only at the data collection stage for the needs assessment, but at the analysis stage when conclusions are made on needs and priorities. Pursue the ongoing work on the development of an inter-sectoral analysis framework, including severity. Assist with a shift from one-off HNOs and HRPs to a more continuous monitoring approach of risks, needs and response that enable data and information to be made available timely for decision-making.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?
Build on new technologies to enhance two-way communication between agencies and affected people and communities, especially when direct access is impaired.

Commitment 14.

OCHA adopts the Commitment to Action on Transcending Humanitarian-Development Divides and will work towards context-specific collective outcomes that ensure that 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.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

The increase in the volume, cost and length of humanitarian assistance and the 2030 Agenda created unprecedented imperative for the UN to commit to a New Way of Working that transcends the humanitarian-development divide. The transformation lies in working towards measurable "collective outcomes" to reduce needs, risk and vulnerability. This new approach calls for risk-informed joined-up analysis, planning and programming between humanitarian and development actors in full respect of humanitarian principles, enabled by coordination and leadership that brings together a more diverse range of actors as well as by coherent, multi-year financing.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

The linkages with the development sector in particular are being taken forward through contextualizing the New Way of Working, working closer with partners to address longer term risks and vulnerabilities at the same time humanitarians are meeting acute needs. OCHA convened workshops at the Global Humanitarian Policy Forum, created tip sheets on multiyear HRPs, and contributed to the new UNDAF guidance and QCPR processes. A plan for roll-out in 2017 was also cultivated.

How are you assessing progress?

OCHA will continue to work, including through the IASC and UNDG, research and evaluation partners, to define progress indicators in analysis, planning, coordination and leadership and financing, and in developing monitoring for collective outcomes, all linking the new way of working to the SDGs.

Challenges faced in implementation

Institutional and operational constraints between the humanitarian and development communities – from Member States to donors, UN to NGOs, Private Sector to Banks and need to ensure respect for humanitarian principles, while ensuring closer cooperation with government, development and peace actors towards achieving collective outcomes.

OCHA and operational agencies still have to adapt their coordination and operational procedures to the specificities of urban contexts, including who to engage with and how.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

A number of global, regional and country level workshops are being planned on rolling out the New Way of Working, while also ensuring that its principles are inserted into ancillary processes in the development and peacebuilding sphere. OCHA will provide appropriate countries with guidance and support to bring together the development and humanitarian communities in articulating collective outcomes, including in IDP settings.

Provide further technical and advisory support and guidance to RCs/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs on modalities of engagement with national and local governments, development and peace actors and related good practices.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

Changing norms will require considerable effort for the longer-term. The New Way of Working is based on empirical evidence and consensus through the WHS, SDGs and other processes and require persistence.

Commitment 15.

OCHA commits to establish a new centre for humanitarian data in the Netherlands in 2017 with the goal of increasing the use and impact of data in the humanitarian sector.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

The effective use of data is changing the face of humanitarian response, providing unprecedented opportunities to innovate and to better assist affected populations. Data can be used to understand needs, target the right kind of support, monitor how a crisis is changing and understand impact. At present, data is not being used optimally to inform humanitarian policy and operational response. OCHA believes the new Centre for Humanitarian Data can accelerate the changes required to make the humanitarian sector data driven.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

OCHA has finalized a three-year business plan and budget for the Centre. Consultations on the plan were held with over 40 partner organizations through design workshops in The Hague and in New York in late 2016. OCHA has established a nine-member Advisory Board for the Centre. The first face-to-face meeting of the Board was held in March 2017 on the sidelines of the Humanitarian ICT Forum in Mountain View, CA. Initial research on establishing a Data Fellows Programme was done and will be an important aspect of the Centre's data literacy workstream. A site for the Centre: https://centre.humdata.org was set up and a temporary physical space was also established at the University of Leiden's campus in The Hague. All staff, consultants and secondments associated with the Centre will be based there until the Humanity Hub building is ready for tenants in late 2017. IOM has advertised for a data manager role that will be based with OCHA in the Centre in The Hague.

How are you assessing progress?

The focus right now is on setting up the legal and financial frameworks for the operations of the Centre. This includes the grant agreements with the initial donors, the Host State Agreement with the Netherlands, and the premises agreement for the office location in The Hague. Partners continue to provide positive feedback on this initiative and new ideas on how the centre can have an impact in the years to come.

Challenges faced in implementation

The main challenges have been with the administrative agreements needed to establish the Centre in The Hague. This has taken longer than expected.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

The next steps include: finalizing the grant agreements with the Dutch MFA and the city of The Hague; finalizing the Host State Agreement between OLA and the Dutch MFA. Two OCHA staff will move to The Hague as of August 2017.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

We are looking forward to working with partners on new projects and workstreams in the coming months as the Centre is finallly established in The Hague.

Commitment 16.

OCHA commits to enhance engagement with national and local NGOs, leveraging the role as partners in the programming and delivery of humanitarian assistance through country-based pooled funds.

Commitment 17.
OCHA commits to exemplify and lead in best practice in its management of the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds towards greater effectiveness and efficiency.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

OCHA committed to "advocate for at least 15 per cent of HRP requirements to be channelled through CBPFs, which are the largest source of direct funding for local and national NGOs, in order to increase direct access to funding for frontline responders" by 2018. CBPFs rely on country-level coordination structures to allocate funding. Allocation strategies are the result of coordinated prioritization processes led by Humanitarian Coordinators, aiming to address humanitarian needs and improve humanitarian response through the best-positioned humanitarian organizations on the ground, which often times are local organizations.

OCHA decided to commit to exemplifying and leading in best practice in its management of the Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds towards greater effectiveness and efficiency because it believes these to be essential steps to make humanitarian pooled funds fit for the future so that they can help meet humanitarian needs.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

In 2016, CBPFs received $706 million from 21 Member States, a record amount, which however represented only 5 per cent of the sum of HRP funding requirements for the 18 countries that had a CBPF ($13.9 billion). In 2016, CBPFs allocated $715 million, of which $127.57 million (17.85%) were directly allocated to national NGOs; this is almost double the net amount recorded in the previous two years (CBPF allocations to national NGOs in 2014 totalled $64.73, and in 2015 $74.35 million). The growth in overall funding mobilized through CBPFs, and specifically in direct allocations to local and national NGOs, is the result of: Inclusive governance, proactive outreach and support to local/national NGOs and partners, context-appropriate risk management and accountability systems, and improved operational nimbleness and performance.

Among other things, in 2016 OCHA reduced the UN Secretariat Programme Support Cost (PSC) from 3 to 2 per cent for OCHA-managed pooled funds (Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-Based Pooled Funds) to improve the Funds' overall efficiency and free up more funding for humanitarian programming. In addition, the CERF secretariat continued to invest in CERF's Grant Management System to better track, allocate, analyse funding. The CERF secretariat also started publishing its allocations and contributions according to the IATI standard. Moreover, the CERF secretariat has further improved its monitoring and analysis of sub-grants made with CERF funds. CERF also continued to work with its recipient UN agencies on improving effectiveness and efficiency of partnership arrangements to ensure that funding and relief-items under CERF grants reach front-line responders in an efficient and timely way.

How are you assessing progress?

In 2016, OCHA developed a Common Performance Framework (CPF) for CBPFs. The CPF is a set of indicators to assess performance against the general objectives, principles, and management standards described in the CBPF global guidelines. The CPF is also a management tool to enable OCHA at the country level as well as globally to ensure systematic and continuous evidence-based performance gains to ensure all Funds remain fit for context, fit for purpose, and fit for the future. It includes measuring the size of CBPFs against HRP funding requirements, and whether CBPF funding is allocated toward priorities in the HRP. Progress will be tracked through regular reviews by the CERF secretariat's internal efficiency task force.

Challenges faced in implementation

Although the net contribution amount to CBPFs reached an all-time record high in 2016, OCHA recognizes the need to scale up its corporate-level advocacy and resource mobilization for the Funds. OCHA identified two challenges to tackle in 2017: Narrow donor base: CBPF Income is heavily dependent on contributions from a small group of UN Member States. And lack of visibility: The value and success of CBPFs is largely unrecognized beyond immediate CBPF stakeholders at the country level.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

As part of the Grand Bargain efforts to increase transparency in aid delivery and in addition to the regular publication of CERF financial information on the CERF website, the FTS and IATI, CERF will continue to provide financial data to the initiative of the Joint Funding Task Team (JFTT) of the UNDG Fiduciary Management Oversight Group (FMOG), aiming at

compiling, analysing and publishing financial data from all UN inter-agency pooled funds. CERF also aims to ensure that transaction costs related to reporting reduced as much as possible while maintaining the necessary levels of accountability and quality of processes and operations.

OCHA will prioritize and improve communications and advocacy for CBPFs, maintain and nurture relations with existing donors and increase its outreach to other UN Member States, diversify the contribution base to include more varied sources of income, and develop and leverage public fundraising initiatives.

If you had one message on what is most needed to advance the transformation, what would it be?

CBPFs are an optimal programming and funding tool to meet the needs of affected people in a coordinated, principled and prioritized manner. Investing in CBPFs allows HCs and humanitarian organizations, including local actors, to deliver collective humanitarian outcomes. Greater support is required to reach the SG's 15% target.

Commitment 18.
OCHA commits to work towards expanding the Central Emergency Response Fund to $1 billion annually by 2018.

What led your organisation to make the commitment? (For example, what did you want to change in practice, behaviour or policy?)

Following extensive analysis and consultation, a decision was taken by the Secretary-General to pursue an increase of CERF's annual funding to $1 billion by 2018. The decision received initial support at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2016. The decision was prompted by the need to make CERF fit for the future. In the decade since introduction of CERF's grant element, the initial $450 million fundraising target has stayed the same whereas humanitarian requirements have increase several-fold.

What are the major achievements-concrete actions and result?

During the year, initiatives under CERF's Resource Mobilization and Communications Strategy were implemented according to agreed action plan. In 2016 the CERF secretariat enhanced its joint strategic outreach and initiatives with partners and stakeholders, including donors, private sector, recipient member states, CERF Advisory Group members, implementing agencies and other pooled funds. In particular, high level advocacy and outreach complemented by communication efforts emphasizing donor visibility and results of CERF were stepped up. The CERF secretariat in 2016 strengthened its results-based communication and digital and online information platforms and launched a revamp of its website (expected to be finalized mid 2017). CERF also increased its visibility efforts - for instance through press releases, social media and a variety of publications and information products.

How are you assessing progress

An increased level of donor contributions will constitute the primary method for assessing progress against this commitment.

Indicate the next steps planned to advance implementation in 2017

Overall priorities for 2017 include:

• Ensuring high level UN leadership, a determining factor for the political commitment of Member States towards the $1 billion target.

• Identifying Member State Champions to amplify CERF focused messaging.

• Broadening engagement with Member States.

• Ensuring evidence-based communications and advocacy: The pursuit of all the above priorities requires strong evidence-based communication and advocacy. Therefore, CERF will continue to focus on ensuring succinct and strong results-based messaging that for instance addresses what a $1 billion CERF will do differently.