



5 CORE RESPONSIBILITIES



THE AGENDA FOR HUMANITY



FIVE CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

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Two young boys carrying water walk down a road next to an IDP camp near the town of Jowhar, Somalia, on December 14. Fighting between clans has displaced more than twelve thousand people near the town of Jowhar, Somalia. Many have sought temporary shelter near an African Union military camp in the area, who are currently providing security for the IDPs.

AU UN IST /Tobin Jones.

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CORE RESPONSIBILITY ONE



Political leadership to prevent and end conflicts

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An end to human suffering requires political solutions, unity of purpose and sustained leadership and investment in peaceful and inclusive societies.
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A Demonstrate timely, coherent and decisive political leadership

- Prioritize political leadership to address the causes of crisis; to own risk and act early to prevent situations from deteriorating; to use political and economic leverage to prevent and resolve conflicts and find political settlements; to ensure that parties to conflict comply with the norms that safeguard humanity; and to act boldly with sustained determination to deliver better outcomes for people in need.

B Act early

Invest in risk analysis and act early on findings

- Build capacity in national Governments and regional and international organizations to analyse risks and monitor deteriorating situations.

- Accept responsibility to protect populations from violence and war and to work with bilateral, regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, to prevent conflicts.
- Accept risk information and analysis and act before situations deteriorate, including through accepting early assistance from bilateral, regional and international partners as needed, to prevent suffering.

Create political unity to prevent and not just respond

- Create unity in preventing and ending crises, including through early and unified political messaging at the regional and international levels and ensuring that initiatives are closely aligned.
- The Security Council should be more actively involved in crisis prevention, including through embracing risk analysis earlier and using its leverage to defuse tensions, urge restraint and open up space for dialogue.
- The Security Council should hold a monthly update on situations of concern, informed by multidisciplinary analysis as appropriate.

Make success visible

- Capture, consolidate and share good practices and lessons learned on conflict prevention.

C Remain engaged and invest in stability

Work on more than one crisis at a time

- Increase the capacity, skills and number of staff in foreign and development ministries of States, regional organizations and the United Nations to be able to handle multiple crises at the same time, including capacities dedicated to conflict prevention and the resolution of crises.
- Ensure that all crises receive political attention, including through high-level coordination that leverages engagement by different actors based on where they have political and economic influence.

Sustain engagement

- Use contact groups systematically at the regional and international levels in fragile and post-conflict settings to maintain political attention and sustained investment over the long term.

Invest in stability and change time frames for results

- Commit to sustained, evidence-based and predictable investment in fragile and post-conflict settings to create and strengthen inclusive, accountable and transparent institutions and provide access to justice for all.
- Develop cooperation and assistance frameworks over 10 to 15 years, and adjust measures of success in order to better reflect time frames for the building of peaceful and inclusive societies.

D Develop solutions with and for people

- Establish platforms between national and local governments and civil societies to enable men and women of all ages, religions and ethnicities to engage and work together on civic issues, and promote “constituencies of peace and non-violence”.
- Promote and require the meaningful inclusion of women and women’s groups in political decision-making and peace processes at all levels.
- Engage young people in national parliaments and in conflict prevention and resolution processes.
- Promote faith-based dialogue that addresses grievances, strengthens social cohesion and promotes long-term community reconciliation.
- Encourage business leaders to utilize leverage, knowledge and technology to contribute to sustainable solutions that bring stability and dignity to people’s lives.



CORE RESPONSIBILITY TWO

Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity

Even wars have limits: minimizing human suffering and protecting civilians require strengthened compliance with international law.

A Respect and protect civilians and civilian objects in the conduct of hostilities

Uphold the cardinal rules

- Comply with the fundamental rules of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack, and strongly urge all parties to armed conflict to respect them.
- Ensure that interpretations of international humanitarian and human rights law are guided by the requirements of humanity, refraining from expansive or contentious interpretations that expand the range of weapons, tactics, targets and civilian casualties considered permissible.
- Stop the military use and targeting of hospitals, schools, places of worship and other critical civilian infrastructure.
- Allow impartial humanitarian actors to engage in dialogue with all relevant States as well as non-State armed groups in order to enhance the acceptance and implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law and to gain and maintain access and operate in safety.

Refrain from bombing and shelling populated areas

- Commit to refraining from using explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas owing to their likelihood of causing indiscriminate effects.
- Collect and share good practices on minimizing impacts on civilians when using explosive weapons in populated areas.
- Identify targets and indicators to monitor progress in reducing the humanitarian impacts of explosive weapons in populated areas.

B Ensure full access to and the protection of humanitarian and medical missions

Meet the essential needs of people

- Ensure that all parties to armed conflict meet the essential needs of the civilian population under their control.
- Ensure full respect for the guiding principles of humanitarian action, namely, humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.
- Ensure that States consent to access, and that all parties to armed conflict fulfil their obligation to allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage for impartial humanitarian organizations when the essential needs of the population are not being met.
- Immediately lift sieges of communities, and allow and facilitate urgently needed impartial humanitarian assistance to people in need.
- Adopt clear, simple and expedited procedures to facilitate rapid and unimpeded access.
- Condemn any instances of arbitrary withholding of consent or impediment to impartial humanitarian relief operations and address them proactively, including through the Security Council.
- Ensure that counter-terrorism or counter-insurgency measures do not inhibit humanitarian action, and provide for necessary exemptions.

Respect and protect humanitarian and medical missions

- Ensure that all State and non-State parties to armed conflict fulfil their obligations to respect and protect humanitarian and medical workers and facilities, as well as the wounded and sick, against attack.
- Put in place political, legal, social and safety measures to protect humanitarian and medical personnel and facilities, including enacting and enforcing domestic laws and regulations, education and training, and enhancing cooperation with local communities.

C Speak out on violations

Gather the facts

- Track, collect, analyse, investigate and report systematically information on violations of international humanitarian law to enhance compliance and accountability.
- Establish a dedicated “watchdog” to track, collect data and report on trends of violations of and gaps in compliance with international humanitarian law.
- Encourage the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and States, including parties to conflict to mandate independent and impartial commissions of inquiry or fact-finding commissions — where national fact-finding endeavours are insufficient — in order to ascertain facts and recommend the way forward in protecting rights.

Systematically condemn serious violations

- Condemn serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and ensure that the facts are publicly known.
- Bring systematically to the attention of the Security Council any instances of serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

D Take concrete steps to improve compliance and accountability

Ensure respect through spheres of influence

- Use all available political and economic leverage to ensure that parties to armed conflict comply with international humanitarian and human rights law.
- Comply with the Arms Trade Treaty and similar regional treaty obligations, including assessing the likelihood that conventional weapons will be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law, and refrain from exporting them if there is a substantial risk of such serious violations.

Reinforce our global justice system

- Adopt national legislation encompassing the full range of international crimes and universal jurisdiction over them, strengthen and invest politically in national law enforcement, and invest financially in strong and impartial judicial systems.
- Carry out systematically effective investigations into and prosecutions of allegations of serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.
- Provide adequate political, technical and financial cooperation and support to the International Criminal Court and for the systematic investigation and prosecution of international crimes.

Use of the Security Council

- Encourage the Security Council to meet automatically when serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law are alleged and the protection of civilians is in jeopardy.

- Encourage the Security Council to politically commit to supporting timely and decisive action in situations involving the most serious violations and not to vote against credible resolutions aimed at preventing or ending them.
- Encourage the permanent members of the Security Council to withhold veto power on measures aimed at preventing or ending mass atrocities.

Eradicate sexual and gender-based violence and treat survivors with dignity

- Enact and implement national legislation in line with international norms on women's rights and outlaw all forms of violence against women and girls.
- Ensure that perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence are held to account, and strengthen and bolster national justice mechanisms, including as part of long-term efforts to end discrimination against women and girls.
- Prioritize comprehensive survivor-centred support, including medical and trauma treatment and care; psychosocial, legal and sexual and reproductive health-care services; and programmes that promote social inclusion.
- Forge partnerships and initiate advocacy campaigns between Governments and women's groups to shift societal attitudes in order to end the stigma of sexual and gender-based violence and uphold the dignity of survivors.

E Uphold the rules: a global campaign to affirm the norms that safeguard humanity

Launch a global campaign

- Launch a global effort to mobilize States parties to relevant international instruments, in particular humanitarian and human rights conventions and treaties, civil society and other global leaders to prevent the erosion of international humanitarian and human rights law, demand greater compliance with such legislation, and ardently pursue the protection of civilians.

Adhere to core instruments

- Urge all States to accede to core international instruments aimed at protecting civilians and their rights and to implement them.

Promote compliance by engaging in dialogue on the law

- Hold regular meetings of States parties to international instruments, in particular humanitarian and human rights conventions and treaties, and experts, on the implementation of international humanitarian and human rights law and new challenges to reinforce its relevance, identify areas requiring clarification and provide opportunities for legal assistance, to ultimately compel compliance.
- Use high-level Member State forums, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Human Rights Council, for dialogue on compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law.



CORE RESPONSIBILITY THREE

Leave no one behind

Honouring our commitment to leave no one behind requires reaching everyone in situations of conflict, disaster, vulnerability and risk.

A Reduce and address displacement

Reduce forced internal displacement by 2030. Commit to a comprehensive global plan to reduce internal displacement in a dignified and safe manner by at least 50 per cent.

- Invest in political solutions to end the causes of displacement and in the return, integration or resettlement of the displaced.
- Develop national legislation, policies and capacities for the protection of displaced persons and their integration into national social safety nets, education programmes, labour markets and development plans.
- Recognize displaced people as socioeconomic assets and contributors, rather than “responsibilities”, and incentivize the development of local markets and private sector activity to that end.
- Direct appropriate national resources and international financing towards national and local systems that address the needs of internally displaced persons and their host communities.
- Ensure that humanitarian and development actors, local authorities and private sector enterprises work collectively, across institutional divides and mandates and in multi-year frameworks, to end aid dependency and promote the self reliance of internally displaced populations.
- Adopt and implement regional and national legal and policy frameworks on internal displacement.

Share responsibility for addressing large-scale movements of refugees

- Develop a new cooperation framework on predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing to address major refugee movements.
- Reinforce the principle of non-refoulement and the importance of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto.

Prepare for cross-border displacement owing to disasters and climate change

- Adopt an appropriate international framework, national legislation and regional cooperation frameworks by 2025 to ensure that countries in disaster-prone regions are prepared to receive and protect those displaced across borders without refugee status.

Ensure adequate support to host countries and communities

- Provide adequate long-term and predictable international political and financial support to host countries and communities, where needed, including for housing, employment, education, health care and other vital public services.

B Address the vulnerabilities of migrants and provide more regular and lawful opportunities for migration

- Agree on a comprehensive response to human mobility, based on partnerships among States, international organizations, local authorities, the private sector and civil society.
- Integrate migrants and their specific vulnerabilities into humanitarian and other response plans.
- Provide greater regular opportunities for lawful migration, including family reunification, work- and study-related mobility, humanitarian visas and protection for those who do not fall under the 1951 Convention.
- Cooperate effectively to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

C End statelessness in the next decade

- Support the “I Belong” campaign to end statelessness by 2024 by resolving existing major situations of statelessness and preventing new cases from emerging.

D Empower and protect women and girls

- Implement and adequately resource policies and programmes aimed at the full and equal participation of women and girls in decision-making at all levels.
- Hold all actors to account for integrating the specific needs of women and girls in national and international development and humanitarian programming and funding and ensuring that women and girls are empowered.
- Guarantee access to sustainable and dignified livelihoods and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services.
- Substantially increase funding to local women’s groups.

E Eliminate gaps in education for children, adolescents and young people

- Commit to ensuring safe, quality and inclusive access to primary and secondary education and vocational opportunities during and after crises, including for children and young people with disabilities.
- Provide primary, secondary and vocational education and certification for those living in displacement, in line with national qualifications and standards.

- Provide sufficient domestic and international funding to enable all children and adolescents to receive education and vocational training opportunities, including in crisis settings.

F Enable adolescents and young people to be agents of positive transformation

- Empower and promote the participation and leadership of young people in national, local and international humanitarian and development programmes and processes, specifically in conflict prevention and resolution, in the response to crises and in the recovery of communities.
- Develop programmes that successfully integrate refugee youth into communities, providing education, vocational training and employment opportunities and platforms to address grievances.

G Address other groups or minorities in crisis settings

- Commit to collecting comprehensive data and analysis to identify, prioritize and track the progress of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including persons with disabilities and older persons, ethnic minorities, trafficked persons, persons in conditions of slavery or forced labour, and other groups.
- Commit to putting in place inclusive national development strategies, laws, economic and social policies and programmes and safety nets with a specific focus on protecting and respecting the rights of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
- Increase support to small island developing States and their communities to prevent, reduce and address sustainably their vulnerabilities owing to climate change and the resultant natural disasters, including the potential loss of homelands.



CORE RESPONSIBILITY FOUR

Change people's lives: from delivering aid to ending need

Ending need requires the reinforcement of local systems and the anticipation and transcendence of the humanitarian-development divide.

A Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems

Put people at the centre: build community resilience

- Enable people to be the central drivers in building their resilience and be accountable to them, including by ensuring consistent community engagement, involvement in decision-making and participation by women at all levels.
- Build on positive local coping strategies and capacities in preparedness, response and recovery, and ensure relevant, demand-led support that reduces reliance on international assistance.
- Ensure that financial incentives promote genuine community engagement.
- Use cash-based programming as the preferred and default method of support.
- Enhance national social protection systems that ensure equitable access to social services, and safety nets that are not vulnerable to market shocks.

Commit to as local as possible, as international as necessary

- Support and enable national and local leadership and their preparedness and response capacities, and strengthen local capacity systematically over multi-year time frames.
- Tailor international support based on a clear assessment of complementarity with national and local efforts, and avoid investing in parallel international coordination and response mechanisms.
- Shift tasks and leadership from international actors to local actors as part of a planned and systematic approach from the outset of a crisis.

B Anticipate, do not wait, for crises

- Develop a comprehensive action plan by 2017 to significantly strengthen the response capacities of the 20 most risk-prone countries by 2020.

Invest in data and risk analysis

- Significantly increase financial and human resources for collecting data and monitoring and analysing risk before, during and after crises, particularly in the most risk-prone countries and areas.
- Commit to consolidating data in open and widely accessible databases, with adequate security and privacy protection, to guide the efforts of all relevant actors at the national, regional and international levels and to inform joint analysis and a common picture of the most pressing risks.

Accept, own and act on risk

- Accept information and analysis related to risk, and establish national and local risk management strategies with clear triggers and lines of responsibility for acting early on identified risks.

- Provide financial incentives that reward national and local early action, and overcome political blockages, including through the use of the good offices of bilateral, regional and international partners.

C Deliver collective outcomes: transcend humanitarian-development divides

- Commit to the following elements in order to move beyond traditional silos, and work across mandates, sectors and institutional boundaries, with a greater diversity of partners, towards ending need and reducing risk and vulnerability in support of national and local capacities and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Create a joint problem statement driven by data and analysis

- Collect, analyse, aggregate and share reliable, sex- and age-disaggregated data with adequate security and privacy protection as a collective obligation to inform priorities.
- Make data and analysis the basis and driver for determining a common understanding of context, needs and capacities between national and local authorities and the humanitarian, development, human rights and peace and security sectors.
- Develop a joint problem statement to identify priorities, the capacities of all available actors to address priorities, and where international actors can support or complement existing capacities.

Identify and implement collective outcomes

- Formulate collective outcomes that are strategic, clear, quantifiable and measurable and prioritized on the areas of greatest risk and vulnerability of people identified in the joint problem statement.
- Aim for collective outcomes to have a positive impact on overall national indicators of advancement towards the 2030 Agenda and for multi-year plans to be instalments towards the achievement of national development strategies, in line with the 2030 Agenda.
- Develop multi-year plans with a duration of three to five years that set out roles for various actors, adopt targets and drive resource mobilization to achieve collective outcomes.

Draw on comparative advantage

- Deliver agreed outcomes based on complementarity and identified comparative advantage among actors, whether local, national or international, public or private.
- Promote a strong focus on innovation, specialization and consolidation in the humanitarian sector.

Coordinate collective outcomes

- Coordinate around each collective outcome with the diverse range of actors responsible for achieving it.

Empower leadership for collective outcomes

- Empower national and international leadership to coordinate and consolidate stakeholders towards achieving the collective outcomes.

- Empower the resident/humanitarian coordinator to ensure coherent, collective and predictable programme delivery by the United Nations and its partners towards the full programme cycle of the multi-year plan and the achievement of collective outcomes.
- Empower the resident/humanitarian coordinator to request and consolidate data and analysis to develop the common problem statement; moderate and conclude the setting of collective outcomes; ensure implementation and the monitoring of progress; and steer adequate resources towards the agreed multi-year plan.
- Adapt structures, processes and financial systems at headquarters of agencies and donors as appropriate to reinforce this approach towards collective outcomes.

Monitor progress

- Ensure that clear performance benchmarks and arrangements are in place to monitor and measure progress towards achieving collective outcomes, to ensure timely adjustments, and to ensure that the right resources and political support are in place.

Retain emergency capacity

- Enable and facilitate emergency response and people's access to life-saving assistance and protection in contexts where it will be difficult to achieve longer-term collective outcomes.
- Recognize the provision of emergency response as a short-term exception and make every effort to reduce need, risk and vulnerability from the outset.



CORE RESPONSIBILITY FIVE

Invest in humanity

Accepting and acting upon our shared responsibilities for humanity requires political, institutional and financing investment.

A Invest in local capacities

- Develop concrete targets to increase the provision of direct and predictable financing to national and local actors, and provide long-term support to develop the capacity of such actors to seek and manage funds where needed.
- Increase the overall portion of humanitarian appeal funding channelled through United Nations country-based pooled funds to 15 per cent.
- Address blockages to direct investments at the local level, including risk aversion, limited local capacity and the effects of counter-terrorism and anti money-laundering measures.
- Accelerate the lowering of transaction costs for remittances in line with commitments made in the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Group of Eight (G-8) and the Group of Twenty (G-20).

B Invest according to risk

- Commit to all investments in sustainable development being risk-informed.
- Increase domestic resources for risk management, including by expanding tax coverage, increasing expenditure efficiency, setting aside emergency reserve funds, dedicating budget lines for risk-reduction activities and taking out risk insurance. Complement national investments with bilateral and South-South cooperation, including by providing expertise, knowledge transfer and technology.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships to enable risk-based investment. Encourage the insurance industry to integrate risk consideration into asset investments.
- Fulfil commitments made in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to increase support to countries that are vulnerable to disaster risks in order to adapt to the negative consequences of climate change and prevent humanitarian crises.
- Dedicate at least 1 per cent of official development assistance (ODA) to disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities by 2020. Dedicate a significant percentage of climate change adaptation funding to disaster preparedness and prevention, and utilize the Green Climate Fund to support activities that build national capacity to reduce climate risks.
- Disburse resources based on risk, on a “no regrets” basis, and develop financial and other incentives to reward risk-informed local and national early action.

C Invest in stability

- Set a target to substantially increase the percentage of aid budgets allocated to fragile situations, including to strengthen national and local inclusive institutions sustainably until 2030.
- Triple the World Bank’s International Development Association Crisis Response Window.
- Allocate additional, predictable resources to the Peacebuilding Fund to continue operations at the current level of \$100 million per year, and scale up the fast-track window of the Peacebuilding Fund with enhanced flexibility for its partners.
- Significantly strengthen, and resource more reliably, the core prevention and mediation capacities of the Secretariat through the United Nations regular budget.

D Finance outcomes, not fragmentation: shift from funding to financing

Finance collective outcomes

- Commit to financing collective outcomes rather than individual projects and activities and do so in a manner that is flexible, nimble and predictable over multiple years so that actors can plan and work towards achieving collective outcomes in a sustainable manner and adapt to changing risk levels and needs in a particular context.

Shift from funding to financing

- Direct finance towards the actors identified in the multi-year plan as having the comparative advantage to deliver collective outcomes.
- Employ the full range of financial options, including grants, risk-pooling and transfer tools, social impact bonds, microlevies, loans and guarantees, based on the actor and their identified contribution to the collective outcome.
- Commit to providing financing equitably to ensure that people in small- and medium-sized crises are not left behind and have their needs met, reinforce “balancing instruments”, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund, and explore other mechanisms, to address global inequalities in funding between crises.

Create a new financing platform to address protracted crises

- The United Nations and international and regional financial institutions should consider co-hosting an international financing platform to ensure predictable and adequate resourcing of collective outcomes in protracted and fragile situations.
- Map available financing instruments and the relevant actors involved to enable the shift from funding to financing, and present the findings at the World Humanitarian Summit. Following the Summit, develop an action plan based on discussions, including on the way forward on the new international financing platform and its scope of action, tools and governance.

E Diversify the resource base and increase cost-efficiency

Increase and diversify the resource base

- Increase the coverage of inter-agency humanitarian appeals to a minimum average of 75 per cent per year by 2018.
- Expand the Central Emergency Response Fund from \$500 million to \$1 billion by 2018.
- Increase and leverage resources from other actors, making an effort to recognize, promote and make visible alternative sources of funding.
- Fulfil commitments to provide 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product as ODA.

Improve cost-efficiency and transparency

- Subscribe to the “grand bargain” put forward by the High-level Panel on Humanitarian Financing.
- Develop and implement a more transparent process for costing aid programmes in order to drive efficiency gains and reduce overhead costs.
- Improve transparency in reporting disbursement and expenditures, and subscribe to the principles of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.

AGENDA FOR HUMANITY: 5 CORE RESPONSIBILITIES — 24 TRANSFORMATIONS

