

Beyond the World
Humanitarian Summit:

FCA CALL FOR ACTION



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Reshaping Aid – More of the same?

More of the same won't fundamentally modify the outcome.

With over 125 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 60 million people displaced and 37 countries affected by crises, humanitarian needs have never been greater, and the humanitarian system more stretched out. As a result, with an agenda aiming at 'reshaping aid', the stakes are high for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) which takes place in Istanbul on 23–24 May 2016, and so is the demand for meaningful commitments from national governments, civil society organisations and donors. To articulate those commitments, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's report One Humanity, Shared Responsibility provides a set of five core responsibilities.

WHS offers the platform to initiate the much needed dialogues between the different stakeholders, and to induce the necessary commitments required to pave the way toward a more efficient and accountable humanitarian response.

Finn Church Aid (FCA) strongly supports the summit and is ready to apply the necessary commitments to make the UN Secretary-General's vision a reality. In the spirit of a genuine change in the ways we sustain humanity, FCA calls for governments, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to answer this call for action and commit to the recommendations.



First Responsibility: **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TO PREVENT AND END CONFLICTS**

The first core responsibility states the need for global leadership to prevent and end conflicts. This call for leadership is echoed by the increasing number of violent conflicts, and increasing numbers of civilian deaths in the last five years. One reason for the limited successes in ending conflicts lies in the limited inclusivity of conflict prevention and peace processes.

We need the inclusion of civil society and key actors, such as women (UNSCR1325) and youth (UNSCR2250). Research clearly demonstrates that outcomes of peace processes are more sustainable when women, for example, are included in the negotiations.

CASE IN POINT: THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN SOUTH SUDAN

FCA supports religious and traditional leaders in finding community-based approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Religious leaders are well-positioned in South Sudan: they have influence at the national level and are able to reach people also at the grassroots level across ethnic, geographical and political boundaries. For example, in January 2014, religious leaders brokered an agreement between the Government of South Sudan and an armed rebellion that led to relative peace and stability in the area.

This agreement enabled and encouraged many humanitarian organisations to start and/or resume their diverse life-saving activities. In 2016, FCA has supported religious leaders in mediating between conflicting parties and solving community level conflicts, and in easing tensions through trust and confidence building activities. FCA has also supported religious leaders in advocating for humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas, and for the safety and security of humanitarian relief staff.

FCA COMMITS TO amplifying the voices that promote human rights and international humanitarian law. FCA will speak out against social and structural injustice such as gender inequality and discriminative practices. FCA strongly believes that to achieve justice and equality, stronger roles should be given to traditional and religious leaders, women and youth.

FCA COMMITS TO increasing its efforts to build bridges between the international actors, including the UN and crisis response actors, and the religious and traditional leaders in fragile settings. This commitment is both financial and in-kind, with special reference to the role of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

FCA CALLS FOR increased support to religious and traditional leaders especially in fragile states.





FCA COMMITS TO lobbying the Government of Finland to channel its funding through organisations that apply the CHS.

FCA CALLS FOR greater accountability to disaster affected populations through the wide adoption and application of the Core Humanitarian Standards as a means of verification in all humanitarian interventions.

FCA CALLS FOR enhanced accountability of the Governments in humanitarian response, and a matching support for them.

Second Responsibility: **UPHOLD THE NORMS THAT SAFEGUARD HUMANITY**

The new agenda for humanity is placing affected people at the centre of humanitarian action. The humanitarian principles and laws protecting civilians are violated, and the humanitarian actors responding to the needs of the civilians, are in danger. The primary responsibility for the provision of emergency response to people and communities lies with the states. States are often fragile, lack necessary capacity and cannot be genuinely accountable without external support. Ensuring

accountability is not the duty of other state actors and international organisations alone; both local and international NGOs can and should play a role.

However, without the use of clearly verifiable and universally applicable standards, accountability will remain a fundraising keyword with limited meaning. FCA stresses the importance of the commitment to the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and their nine commitments.

Third Responsibility: LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

With nearly 60 million internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum-seekers around the globe, and the length of displacement averaging 17 years, the needs of people on the move are, more than ever, a priority. With new patterns of displacement and an ever increasing number of international border crossings, it is essential not only to answer the needs of these people, but also to address their vulnerabilities.

With refugees usually falling under humanitarian response, the lack of long term planning in refugee settings is leading to short term remedies which don't address the root causes of displacement.

Allowing the education of millions of children and youth to be cut short by conflict and other emergencies is not just ethically indefensible, it is economically ruinous¹.

Education is both a right in itself, and a means of realising other human rights. Parents and children affected by emergencies and protracted crises constantly highlight the importance of education. Yet, education accounts for only a small fraction of humanitarian aid: in 2013, only 2% of funds from humanitarian appeals were directed to education. Nevertheless, a growing concern for education and the increased realisation of its central

part in country development offers some hope.

Meeting the educational needs of refugees is not adequately addressed by the current humanitarian and development aid architectures. **FCA welcomes the new Education Crisis Platform, which is to be launched during the WHS, and calls for wide adoption and use of the Platform.**

The purpose of this new platform is to generate political and financial commitments to meet the educational needs of millions of children and young people affected by crises.

FCA COMMITS TO ensuring safe, quality and inclusive access to education and vocational opportunities in and after crises, including equal opportunities for children and youth with disabilities

FCA CALLS FOR greater flexibility in funding refugee crises beyond purely humanitarian funding to ensure aid modalities aren't limited by inappropriate funding rules.

FCA CALLS FOR a commitment from humanitarian actors and donors to increase funding and commitment to work in Education in Emergencies

¹ Education Crisis Platform

CASE IN POINT: WORKING WITH REFUGEE YOUTH IN JORDAN

Long lasting displacement requires a heavy focus on children and youth to build long-term resilience beyond simply answering the current needs. In Jordan, FCA is working with Syrian youth to not only answer today's needs, but also those of tomorrow. While not allowed to provide Syrian refugees with vocational training,

FCA provides young refugees with technical skills trainings conducted by specialised trainers. Those skills (such as hair dressing, mobile phone maintenance or even photography) ensure the young refugees are provided with daily activities and skills useful both in the refugee camps and upon returning home.



Fourth Responsibility: FROM DELIVERING AID TO ENDING NEEDS

The involvement of local actors has for too long been perceived as of low impact, low capacity, and offering low-cost work force. Yet, as local organisations are usually acting as the first responders during emergencies, they are well suited to responding in a quick and culturally sensitive way, and providing access and better accountability to affected populations. However, after the initial stage of relief efforts, local actors are usually quickly overshadowed by bigger international actors deemed 'more capable' and receiving the vast majority of humanitarian funding. In 2014, only 0.2 per cent of reported humanitarian funding was channelled directly to national and local

NGOs. This lack of involvement also hampers the much needed capacity-building, and traps local organisations, and the affected populations, in a circle of dependency on international actors.

FCA COMMITS TO demonstrating, learning from, identifying and sharing best practices in North-South partnership, in line with the Principles of Partnership, inherent in the vision and working practices of ACT Alliance.

FCA CALLS FOR a shift in power towards locally-led response through the substantial increase of direct funding to local organisations from 0.02% currently to 20% of humanitarian aid, in line with the Charter for Change.

CASE IN POINT: USE OF LOCAL CAPACITY AFTER THE NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

From local development to humanitarian aid: FCA and its two partners were present in Nepal prior to the 2015 earthquake, but neither partner had humanitarian expertise. Nevertheless, they proved essential in the success of the humanitarian response, by providing essential information and local knowledge, offering storage space, and supporting the distribution of relief

materials. In return, FCA organised capacity building for those organisations to equip them with the necessary knowledge to ensure quality humanitarian response (humanitarian standards, Cluster coordination). Through this process, small size development actors became better prepared to face further possible disasters and operate as first responders.

Fifth Responsibility: INVEST IN HUMANITY

We need to go beyond planning to meet humanitarian financial needs, to planning for humanitarian needs reduction².

While some of the issues currently undermining the humanitarian sector are structural, funding modalities have also shaped the current aid structure, including some of its shortcomings. As a result, a reform of the humanitarian system can't be achieved without the fruitful contribution of major donor institutions. This contribution is presented under the idea of a 'Grand Bargain' by the UN Secretary-General, and it focuses on a trade-off between donors and humanitarian organisations. It aims at diversifying the resource base while involving the private sector more strongly in humanitarian assistance.

Previously, the modalities of engagement between humanitarian aid and development were clearly defined; however, the growing number of protracted crises, chronic disasters and long term displacement are challenging the 'established order'. Only by providing a holistic programme including both humanitarian and development work, and also linking those with conflict prevention and peace building activities in conflict areas, can we hope to have a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of affected people.

FCA is already working closely with the private sector to develop innovative approaches to long lasting issues. The involvement of the private sector in humanitarian programmes provides an opportunity to think outside the box and explore new ways of providing aid in an ever changing world. Beyond the financial opportunity, FCA believes a fruitful collaboration with the private sector can provide a portion of the much needed innovation required to reshape aid.

In times of diminishing Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), FCA requests that the current refugee reception crisis impacting Europe shouldn't be used as an excuse to reallocate ODA funding from other vulnerable countries toward Europe.

FCA COMMITS TO creating programmes combining humanitarian aid, development and peace building in our focus countries, and to developing our activities around a shared vision of resilience. Accordingly, FCA commits to developing sustainable livelihoods, such as using cash programming as a favoured tool to provide in emergencies.

FCA CALLS FOR greater integration and investment in resilience and in reducing vulnerabilities through more flexible funding.

FCA CALLS FOR better coordination by the public sector to strengthen the participation of the private sector in humanitarian interventions.

2 UN Secretary-General's report: One humanity, Shared responsibility



CASE IN POINT: INNOVATION AND PRIVATE SECTOR RELATION IN THE RWAMWANJA REFUGEE CAMP IN UGANDA

The Ugandan government has a requirement of at least one vocational training centre in every county, but progress on this front has been slow and some counties are still missing such a centre. That is also the case in Rwamwanja, where FCA has started the implementation of an innovative project aiming at providing vocational training on entrepreneurship. Through the use of mobile technologies, private

companies from Finland (Omnia and Fuzu) are able to provide skills training to Congolese refugees using mobile phones. Different modules on business and entrepreneurship, developed by Omnia, are provided to students through the mobile application developed by Fuzu, with support from FCA staff on the ground. If successful, this initiative will be scaled up to reach both refugees and local young businessmen.



FOA HEAD OFFICE
P.O. Box 210 (Eteläranta 8)
00131 Helsinki
Finland

finnchurchaid.fi



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actalliance