

### **ACT Alliance pledge on locally led humanitarian response**

In line with our founding value as ACT Alliance to good stewardship of our resources and building mutual trust, we commit to making investments and changes to shift power to local actors and to be accountable to people affected by crisis and vulnerability. This means ensuring quality programming in which communities identify their own needs and determine their own priorities, and approaches<sup>1</sup>.

We will be guided by high ethical standards which are contextualised and wherever possible derived from community standards, ensuring positive contributions to the lives of people and communities affected by crises and unjust systems. “We will speak out and act against those conditions, structures and systems which increase vulnerability and perpetuate poverty, injustice and the destruction of the environment”<sup>2</sup>.

We seek to translate these commitments into practice, with a set of initial steps. At a time when the impacts of Climate Change present urgent and exponential challenges, it is crucial that local level disaster preparedness, anticipatory action and response are strengthened through our collective response.

At the General Assembly, we launch our pledge of commitments as individual ACT members and as an Alliance.

#### **1) Moving towards leadership of national members in the ACT Alliance Appeal mechanism.**

- We as ACT Alliance commit to review the ACT humanitarian appeal mechanism to agree and formalise leadership of ACT’s national members within ACT Appeals where feasible.
- Over time, we as members and the ACT secretariat commit to supporting this change to the appeal mechanism.

#### **2) Quality funding**

- We, the members of ACT Alliance, commit to developing policies to increase the coverage of indirect cost recovery (ICR) to local and national organisations we partner with – inside or outside the ACT network. We commit to taking steps towards 10% coverage of partner overheads.

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<sup>1</sup> [ACT-founding-doc-ENG.doc \(actalliance.org\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> IDEM

### Input for voluntary endorsement by ACT members

- We as ACT Alliance commit to adhere to the Grand Bargain commitment to increase direct funding for local actors wherever possible.

#### 3) Investment in capacity-sharing

- We as ACT Alliance commit to encourage investment within our appeal mechanism in sharing capacities between national and international members to deliver high quality and accountable humanitarian response.
  - This includes accompaniment for national members leading ACT appeals. We will engage in open dialogue to ensure capacity-sharing is demand-led, contextually relevant, needs-based and fitting for partner structure and size. We will be careful not to change CBOs, church actors or informal self-help groups into NGOs while supporting capacities to deliver quality response.
  - To deliver on these efforts, we will work together through structures including the national Forums to plan and conduct actions leading towards these goals: from mapping of local and national member & partner capacities to increased information sharing on available training opportunities.
- To end the multiple partnership assessments local and national organisations must undertake, we will develop proportionate and standardised due diligence. Any partnership assessment will include identifying opportunities for capacity investment.
- We will align with initiatives being developed across the sector to avoid duplication. We will advocate to donors to accept harmonised proof of capacities, to expand use beyond ACT programmes.

#### 4) Strengthen and expand the Rapid Response Fund

The Fund is an important source of funding for national members of ACT Alliance to rapidly respond to crises affecting communities. We as ACT Alliance commit to expanding the Fund and scaling up its use for anticipatory action. The annual fund turnover should be at least US\$10 million by 2027.

#### 5) Ensuring gender justice and inclusion are at the heart of ACT Alliance locally led humanitarian action

We as ACT Alliance commit to ensuring that funding and programming frameworks within the ACT Humanitarian Mechanism use the network's Gender Justice Policy and the Gender Inclusive Rights-Based Manual.