

Reviewing CHS support to Grand Bargain Commitments “Harmonise Partnership Agreements”

Invitation for proposals

Background

This review will explore the potential of the CHS verification processes, including HQAI third-party audits, to support the achievement of the Grand Bargain Commitment 4.2 to “Harmonise partnership agreementsin order to save time and avoid duplication in operations”.

In 2015, ICVA produced a report on Partner Capacity Assessments. Its findings included:

1. PCAs have become more demanding... with a substantial number of questions being asked of NGOs, leading to lengthy processes that require substantial investment of time and resources by all parties.
2. For many NGOs, the PCA processes appear non-transparent and difficult to prepare for, including the fact that NGOs may not know exactly how the information may be used by the specific funder, or indeed, whether sensitive information is shared with other funders.
3. Though PCAs and, by extension, related due diligence procedures become a proxy for quality management, no clear correlation was found between in-depth partner assessments and increased quality of performance of vetted NGOs.

Five years on from this report, it would seem that demands on partnership capacity assessments and due diligence processes have increased, especially with the rigour of more in-depth PSEAH due-diligence processes. This review will explore this hypothesis, and the potential of the CHS to meet these demands.

At the same time, there are positive moves with the commitments made by donors to the CHS verification in relation to their partnership assessments. Some donors now recognise the CHS verification as part of their donor due diligence / capacity assessment, which is a positive move to a more efficient approach.

Purpose & Objectives

The aim of the research would be:

1. Review of the current situation of donor Partner Capacity Assessments and due diligence processes. This will be a follow up to the 2015 ICVA research paper to see what has changed in the last five years regarding donor partner capacity assessments and due diligence processes.

- a. Has there been a growing proliferation of due diligence and partner capacity assessments? What are the trends in focus and requirements?
 - b. What are the positive moves towards harmonisation and simplification?
2. Review of how verification against the CHS - and other standards - are being recognised as part of donor partner capacity assessments.
- a. Consider how the CHS verification and other standards could be a viable tool for increased efficiency in the sector for a more sustainable approach to donor partner capacity assessments and due diligence processes. Is it possible to come to a similar 8 + 3 reporting approach to partner capacity assessment?
 - b. What is the impact for the chain of assessment requirements, especially for national NGOs?
3. Make recommendations on how the CHS can play a role in achieving commitment 4.2, of the Grand Bargain and its commitments made to the CHS.

Time frame

Up to 20 days from January to end of May 2020

Deliverables

- A report synthesising the results of data collection and analysis on the three objectives of the study.
- Participate in a meeting to discuss the results of the study organised by the CHS Alliance with donors and other key actors in May 2020.

Application Process

Please submit the following to recruitment@chsalliance.org by 28 January 2020

- I. One-page motivational cover note
- II. Maximum three-page proposal for how this work would be completed
- III. CVs of the consultants
- IV. Evidence of other similar pieces of work