



MINUTES OF THE CHS ALLIANCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29 September 2022: Online

Attendees

A total of 319 participants attended the General Assembly.

1. Session one: Reports

1.1 Chairs Report

Lola Gostelow, Chair of the CHS Alliance since December 2021, gave welcoming remarks and reflected on the power of this movement driven by a shared conviction of the fundamental importance of being accountable to the people we serve. She also spoke of significant achievements to date and key challenges to overcome. She finished by outlining the GA agenda and highlighted three critical areas where members' engagement was sought:

- i) Firstly, on using the findings of the membership dialogue to determine together how we can be even better agents of change.
- ii) Secondly, to amend our statutes. And we will also announce the results of the elections to the CHS Alliance Board
- iii) Thirdly, to explore how we can make the CHS verification scheme fit for purpose, particularly for national actors.

1.2 Executive Directors Report

Executive Director, Tanya Wood, presented on the new strategy, outlining where we are to date and the opportunities and challenges ahead for the

Three objectives,

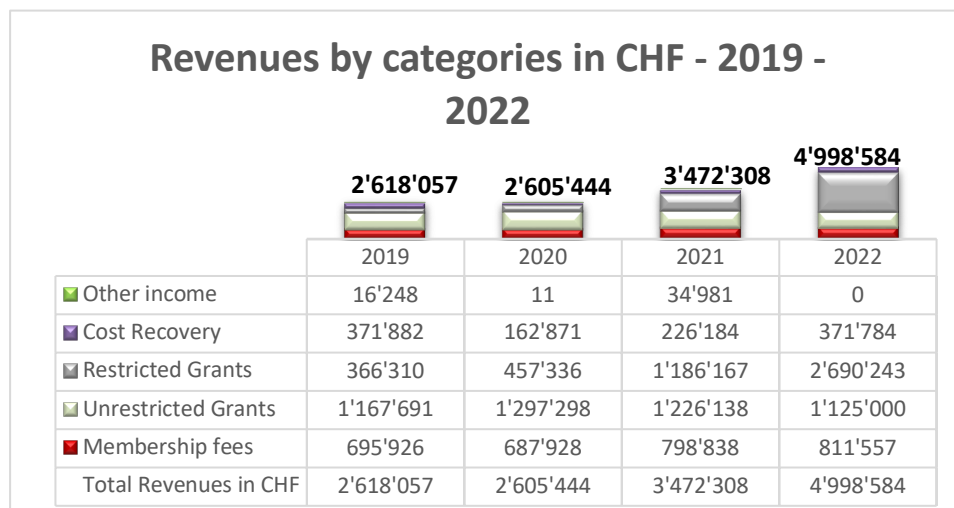
- Improving Delivery Against the CHS
- Building a stronger CHS Alliance Movement
- A more accountable aid system

The Three Focal areas

- Local Actors
- Members
- System Change

1.3 Treasurer Report

The new Treasurer, Michael Moriarety, gave an overview of the financial situation of the Alliance, based on the overview below. Reserves were at 907,715 CHF in 2022. PWC were appointed auditors in 2021.



2. Session Two: Building a Stronger CHS Alliance Movement

The [new strategy 2022-2025](#) recognises that we can only meet our ambitions of demanding greater accountability to people in crisis if we can really work as a network and harness our collective efforts.

CHS Alliance spoke to as many full members as possible before the General Assembly on how they are using the CHS in their organisations and with their partners. In this session staff reported back on key findings which form the basis for a discussion to build a stronger movement for change.

The Secretariat's Rosa Argent and Bonaventure Sokpoh presented an overview of the dialogue's purpose, engagement and results.

At the time of the GA, a total of 88 calls had taken place (25 national NGOs and 63 INGOs) with more scheduled to take the number of members engaging to over 100.

While we heard a wide range of opinions, reflecting a diverse global network, we summarised what we heard and there was some commonalities relating to areas where members were satisfied and also areas to be strengthened.

Going well

- ✓ provision of guidance and tools
- ✓ A sense of pride in the membership
- ✓ access to training
- ✓ integration of the CHS in organisations' own systems
- ✓ efforts to promote the CHS internally among partners

Areas to improve

- ✓ learning from each other and more capacity support
- ✓ Translations of materials
- ✓ country and regional level outreach
- ✓ greater advocacy efforts
- ✓ Scope of CHS – humanitarian or broader?



Based on the learning, three propositions were shared with members and then discussed in breakout groups facilitated by a staff members. The propositions were:

1. Members are supported on their **learning and improvement journey (including peer learning)** to meet the CHS Commitments.
2. Members are **using the CHS with their partners** so their partnership is guided by a common understanding of delivering on the Commitments made to people in crises
3. Members are **advocating to funders for increased recognition of the CHS**, so that accountability is based on CHS commitments to people in crisis.

The feedback and ideas were captured for further reflections. What we heard in the dialogue and during this session will be central to informing the 2023 work planning and work to strengthen our movement for greater accountability, together.

3. Session Three: Changes to the Statutes and Election Results

Robert Sweatman, Returning Officer, proposed the changes to the Statutes. The following motions were presented for live electronic voting:

- **Motion 1:** we propose to amend the requirements for members related to verification, with a requirement that full members (only) undertake one type of verification within 2 years of joining the CHS Alliance.
- **Motion 2:** we propose adding a new Standing Committee – the People & Culture Committee which will provide oversight of strategic Human Resources and contribute to a smooth functioning of the Board and Secretariat.

Quorum was not reached so the votes on the Statutes were postponed.

Next, Robert Sweatman, Returning Officer, announced the results of the Board elections. The following seven people were elected to re-elected to the Governing Board:

- Shahid Ali, Fast Rural Development Program
- Coleen Heemskerk, Act Church of Sweden
- Rehema Kajungu, TPO Uganda
- Carly Sheehan, OXFAM
- Eoin Wrenn, Trocaire
- Yegana Guliyeva, independent (nominated Lutheran World Federation)
- Gloria Soma, independent (nominated Christian Aid)

4. Session Four: Accessibility of the Verification Scheme

CHS Alliance commissioned a review to consider how to make the verification scheme more accessible to local and national actors. The consultants contracted, HERE Geneva, joined the sessions. They presented various questions to the audience for feedback. This will feed into the review. The review should be finalized in January 2023

The chair, Lola Gostelow thanked everybody and closed the session.