**Increasing Recognition of the CHS by donors**

**CHS Alliance Members’ Working Group: Terms of Reference**

1. **Why we need this Working Group**

The role of donors in incentivising greater accountability to affected people is fundamental to ensuring organisations are engaging and responsive to the needs of people affected by crisis. This call for greater commitment was made in the IASC Principals in their [2022 Statement](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-and-inclusion/statement-principals-inter-agency-standing-committee-iasc-accountability-affected-people).

Yet how donors should incentivise greater accountability seems to be a challenge, documented in this [IASC donor report](https://d1h79zlghft2zs.cloudfront.net/uploads/2023/04/Donor_AAP_review.pdf). One solution offered in the report is for donors to recognise and use CHS verification to provide assurance of agency commitments to accountability.

Together, the nine commitments of the CHS provide a coherent and integrated accountability and quality framework to help organisations assess, measure and continuously improve their performance and accountability towards the people and communities they support. The call for greater recognition of the CHS by donors was a rallying cry throughout the extensive CHS consultations. CHS member organisations have also strongly indicated the need to reduce the bureaucratic burden of donor due diligence systems, by increasing the recognition of the CHS verification.

Greater recognition of the CHS by donors, can contribute to the following fundamental reform challenges :

1. **Enhancing accountability and quality:** Donors are seeking more consistent ways to support greater quality and accountability to affected people. Ensuring organisations meet their CHS commitments is a clear solution. While some donors do reference to it, there is still a lack of knowledge among donors about what the CHS is and how it can help them in this effort.
2. **Contribution to localisation:** There is great potential for donors to see evidence on strengthening local leadership by assessing how organisations they fund are meeting their CHS commitments. This also includes encouraging funded organisations to ensure their partners in countries are also being enabled to meet the CHS commitments.
3. **Greater efficiency:** Reducing bureaucratic impediments by recognising CHS verification in the due diligence processes required by donors shows great potential. This “passporting” of donor due diligence is often not recognised by donors, despite growing evidence of how it could meet their needs.

With the updated CHS now launched, it seems a pivotal moment to accelerate the discussions on donor recognition of the CHS and its verification, linked to broader sector discussions on harmonising and passporting due diligence. To galvanise this collective effort, a commitment by the CHS Alliance members to share, exchange and learn from one another on where the opportunities lie is crucial.

1. **What we hope to achieve with this Working Group**

The Working Group on Donor Recognition will provide strategic advice, feedback, and support to a CHS Alliance plan aimed at increasing donor recognition of the CHS and its verification options.

The plan will have the following three goals:

1. **Develop a comprehensive understanding of how the CHS is being recognised -** It is important that the Alliance has a comprehensive picture of the ways the CHS is being used by donors, which is kept updated with developments. Members of the working group will be expected to review the current mapping and provide insights into other emerging opportunities.
2. **Promote joint peer initiatives to explore new opportunities with donors.** Identify some key donor opportunities and facilitate member organisations to work together in joint peer initiatives, such as pooled funds, NGO joint funding platforms, etc, facilitating donor recognition.
3. **Develop joint materials and communication** - tools for furthering greater donor recognition. Share learning on developing the arguments of greater CHS recognition, share where challenges or blockages have been met.
4. **How the Working Group will operate**
5. **Composition**

The Working Group is open to all members who are keen to contribute to this area of work. We would ask to limit the participation to one person / organisation.

We would particularly keen to hear from members who

1. Have experience in dealing with donor advocacy / donor due diligence processes / harmonisation / passporting initiatives.
2. Have led a CHS verification process (self-assessment, independent verification, certification) in their organisation.
3. Can maintain a commitment to engaging in a regular bimonthly meeting for a one-year term, with the possibility of continuing

An invitation will be extended to HQAI as well to participate in the Working Group. Other organisations external to the Alliance may be invited as well, as necessary.

1. **Ways of working**

The Working Group would convene bimonthly.

* The first meeting is planned for the second week of October.
* The working language of the group will be English.
* We will assess and adapt the way the group functions dynamically to ensure we are operating in a way that best meets the group’s goals.
1. **How to apply**

If you are interested in joining this important group, please express your interest by sending an email to verification@chsalliance.org by 30 August, outlining your answers to the questions below:

1. Why are you interested to join the members’ Working Group on Donor Recognition?
2. What skills and experience do you bring?
3. Can you commit to up to meeting bimonthly for the first year of this group?
4. Would you potentially be interested in co chairing this group with the CHS Alliance team?

You will be informed on the next steps by 6 September 2024.

Join us in making a significant impact on the recognition and adoption of CHS by donors. We look forward to hearing from you !