



COLLECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ACCOUNTABLE AID

CHS Alliance Strategy
2026-2030



FOREWORD:

This strategy is set against a backdrop of increasing needs for communities and greater uncertainty for aid organisations. Conflict is leading to record levels of displacement, and the climate crisis is increasing the vulnerability of communities around the world. Funding is shrinking. Political priorities are shifting. Organisations are being forced to make painful choices about who they assist – and who they don't.

The system must change. Aid and the response to crises must be driven by and co-designed with affected communities. People must be protected from harm and have their dignity and rights respected. Competition between organisations must give way to collaboration, and rhetoric be replaced with bold, practical action. The challenge is significant, but many solutions are within reach.

CHS Alliance is a powerful movement, with a diverse and growing global network of more than 280 members - local, national, and international - operating across 190 countries. CHS Alliance members are united by a common vision: **people and communities vulnerable to risk and affected by disaster, conflict or poverty, influence and access quality assistance and can hold organisations accountable.**

More than ever, it is critical that we work together with and uphold our commitments to people affected by crisis. Together we will forge stronger partnerships and pursue collective solutions for more effective and locally-led assistance.

VISION

People and communities vulnerable to risk and affected by disaster, conflict or poverty, can influence and access quality assistance and can hold organisations accountable.

MISSION

To promote respect for the rights and dignity of people and communities vulnerable to risk and affected by disaster, conflict or poverty; and enhance the effectiveness and impact of assistance by building a culture of quality and accountability.

CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD



HOW WE WORK

Our approach is evidence-based, people-centred and guided by the globally recognised Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) on Quality and Accountability: a set of nine commitments putting people affected by crisis and vulnerability at the heart of our work.

GOAL

A global movement working together to make aid more accountable, more effective, and safer.

To truly put people at the centre, the CHS Alliance commits to:

OBJECTIVE 1

Enhance organisations' capacity to improve the quality, accountability and safety of assistance.

FOCUS AREAS

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



Organisations can access guidance, tools, and support to verify how they are meeting the CHS commitments and make needed improvements.

COURAGEOUS COLLABORATION



Through a growing network, organisations assist each other through peer learning opportunities and the sharing of resources, innovations, and expertise. This strengthens accountability, safeguarding, and partnerships across the network.

OBJECTIVE 2

Harness the influence of our global movement to create a more accountable, a safer, and more locally-led aid system.

FOCUS AREAS

COLLECTIVE ACTION



CHS Alliance develops and promotes collective solutions for a more accountable, effective, and a safer aid system. Organisations align ways of working that reduce duplication and overcome barriers to locally-led assistance.

INFORMED INFLUENCE



CHS Alliance will amplify the voices of people affected by crises, use evidence from data, and harness the influence of our global movement to advocate for safer, more accountable, and locally-led aid.

OBJECTIVE 1

Enhance organisations' capacity to improve the quality, accountability and safety of assistance.

As needs grow and resources tighten, recognising that crisis-affected people are at the heart of decision-making is essential for effective, efficient, and accountable action. CHS Alliance will support organisations to verify against the CHS and will provide targeted capacity support to help organisations uphold their commitments to communities, while harnessing the global network for greater peer support.

OBJECTIVE 1 | FOCUS AREA



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

More than 300 organisations have already taken action to verify how they are meeting the globally recognised CHS. Members are supported on this journey with a suite of resources aligned to the updated Core Humanitarian Standard. The sector must rally around the CHS commitments for a people-centred approach to aid and maintain a strong focus on safeguarding people, communities, and the environment.

Organisations will be supported to make continuous improvements by:

- **CHS verification and improvement.** Organisations will be encouraged to verify against the CHS and advance their improvement plans through a combination of guidance materials, participation in communities of practice and tailored support for members.
- **Access to capacity support.** Organisations can access a range of trainings to help frontline and headquarter staff meet CHS commitments. Organisations will be able to access expertise through a roster of consultants and practical resources from across the CHS Alliance.
- **A growing movement for quality and accountability.** An increased number of organisations, particularly those with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, will be encouraged to verify and drive organisational improvements.

OBJECTIVE 1 | FOCUS AREA



COURAGEOUS COLLABORATION

There has been a rapid growth in the number of organisations joining the CHS Alliance. The largest growth has been with national and local organisations, which now represent over half of the 280 members. The large number and diverse range of organisations committed to a common framework provides a wealth of knowledge. The CHS Alliance will focus on enabling peer learning amongst members to share expertise and support innovative partnerships to collectively tackle some of the most persistent challenges to effective and accountable aid. Organisations will be encouraged to connect, collaborate, and learn through:

- **Country-level collaboration.** Responding to member demand, CHS Alliance will better enable connections at country level for learning and partnerships between members.
- **Communities of Practice (CoP) and events.** CHS Alliance will convene CoPs on key topics related to meeting the CHS commitments. We will connect members to expertise and resources across the alliance.
- **Partnerships for Innovation.** CHS Alliance will support innovative partnerships to address persistent challenges in accountability and safeguarding.

OBJECTIVE 2

Harness the influence of our global movement to create a more accountable, a safer, and more locally-led aid system.

Inequity and power dynamics in the aid system must be addressed as a matter of urgency. It is critical that CHS Alliance members have a strong and collective voice on the importance of accountability to people affected by crisis, locally-led assistance and safeguarding and that organisations come together to address inequities. When 280 organisations work with and listen to the communities they serve and are aligned on how the sector needs to adapt, real change is possible.

OBJECTIVE 2 | FOCUS AREA

COLLECTIVE ACTION

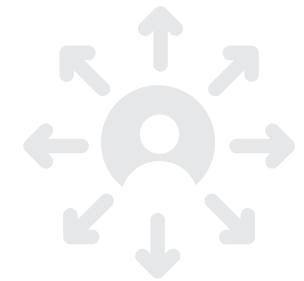


Complex challenges are bigger than any one organisation. Aligning around collective solutions, which are informed and co-designed by local communities, has the potential to promote accountability and safety, reduce duplication and remove barriers to a truly locally-led aid system. CHS Alliance has identified collective solutions to tackle some of the most persistent accountability challenges, including safeguarding, participation, and localisation. CHS Alliance will promote sector-wide solutions and align ways of working, including:

- **Reducing duplication of effort for more equitable partnerships:**
The CHS Alliance will advance CHS due diligence passporting to help reduce duplication of effort, encourage equitable partnerships and expedite locally-led action.
- **Harmonised efforts to prevent SEAH:**
We will encourage our members to join the 100+ organisations participating in the Harmonised Reporting Scheme, to better understand and prevent sexual, exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), and to join the 350+ organisations participating in the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, stopping perpetrators from being hired.
- **Strengthened sector wide approaches to accountability:**
We will expand access to complaint mechanisms and SEAH investigators to ensure that when complaints are made, they are addressed swiftly, safely, and effectively.

OBJECTIVE 2 | FOCUS AREA

INFORMED INFLUENCE



CHS Alliance has produced a wealth of evidence and learning from organisations working to meet the CHS and the associated safeguarding schemes. This data clearly shows where progress has been made, where persistent challenges exist, and helps the sector to identify solutions to address them.

By listening to communities affected by crisis we can understand where we are failing and invest in targeted improvements. CHS Alliance will amplify the voices of people affected by crises, use evidence from data, and harness the influence of our global movement to advocate for safer, more accountable, and locally-led aid in the following ways:

- **Collective country assessments.** The CHS Alliance will coordinate collective assessments with people experiencing crises to promote accountability and influence organisations' improvements.
- **Evidence and experience-informed advocacy.** The CHS Alliance will harness CHS data, the rich experience of organisations, and perceptions of people affected by crisis to advocate for bold sector reforms.
- **CHS recognition for sector wide impact.** The CHS Alliance will work with host governments, the UN, and donors to strengthen accountability to people affected by crisis.

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