



Carly Sheehan

Profile

Carly was elected to the Board of the CHS Alliance in 2022 and became Vice Chair in 2025. She has been an active member of two Board sub-committees and spearheaded the Australian launch of the revised CHS in 2024. Carly has been a passionate advocate for accountability to affected people since she joined the humanitarian sector in 2005. She has extensive humanitarian experience in NGOs and UN agencies across 20 countries in East and West Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. Carly's flexibility as a generalist has led to positions in response coordination, information management, resource mobilisation, MEAL, and programme management at country, regional, and global levels.

Carly has spent the past seven years as Oxfam's Global Humanitarian Team Accountability Advisor, working with country teams and partners to increase their effectiveness and impact through improving accountability culture and practice. This has entailed training, developing guidance and tools, hosting webinars and podcasts, and other ongoing support.

Carly brings a wealth of experience and knowledge directly from her response experiences and this, combined with her long-standing global role, enables her to bridge the gap between policy makers and practitioners. With Oxfam being certified against the CHS, Carly is familiar with the HQAI verification process, and the benefits and challenges this may present for CHS members.

In her daily work, Carly strives for a better aid system, one where the rights, needs and priorities of people are front and centre and where aid actors are truly accountable to the communities they work with. Carly holds a Masters Degree in International Affairs from the Australian National University and volunteers her spare time with Seeing Eye Dogs Australia. She is based in Melbourne, Australia.

Why is the CHS Alliance important to the sector?

By supporting organisations of all sizes, facilitating knowledge and expertise sharing, the Alliance helps the sector to put people in crisis at the heart of what we do. The Alliance helps to drive change, demands continuous improvement, and enables us to be held to account by the communities we work with, by other stakeholders, and by ourselves as a sector. With over 250 members in the Alliance, we can work together as a collective movement to ensure that aid is shaped by, and truly accountable to, people and communities, as the primary stakeholders, in situations of crisis and vulnerability



What motivates you to join the Alliance's Board?

I am seeking a second term on the Board to continue in my role as Vice Chair, and to keep championing for collective approaches to improving accountability across members of all shapes and sizes. I am proud to have helped shepherd the Alliance's new Strategy through its development and endorsement by the General Assembly, and the opportunity to continue playing a role on a Board that steers such a diverse movement is energizing. I look forward to contributing to shared momentum, fostering collaboration, and amplifying voices, especially those of local and national actors whose leadership is essential for accountability.