



Ugochi Cynthia Abazie Abang

Profile

Cynthia is a Human Rights lawyer and seasoned humanitarian and development practitioner with more than fourteen years of experience across Nigeria, Australia, and diverse global humanitarian contexts. She currently serves as the Global Programme Manager for Humanitarian Affairs at LM International, supporting the implementation of multi-country humanitarian interventions in conflict-affected settings including Sudan, Chad, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

She brings strong expertise in programme quality, accountability, and compliance with international humanitarian standards, notably the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), for which she is also a certified trainer. As a member of the Global CHS Steering Committee/Taskforce and CHS Focal Point within the Programmes Unit, she strengthens organisational accountability to affected populations and ensures adherence to safeguarding commitments, including PSEAH, across LM International's programmes.

Cynthia consistently advocates for improved donor recognition of the CHS and advances discussions on CHS passporting within the humanitarian system, particularly through Nordic networks such as SNHA where she regularly engages. Her field-grounded perspective enables her to effectively influence policy dialogues and champion more coherent, systemwide approaches to quality and accountability.

Her work has centred on organisational capacity strengthening, partnership development with local actors, and advancing inclusive, locally led humanitarian responses. Growing up in Nigeria, a complex, conflict-affected context, has deeply shaped her commitment to localisation, equity, and community-driven approaches.

She also contributes extensive experience in policy engagement, donor relations, and multi-stakeholder coordination with UN agencies, civil society, and government institutions. As a CHS Alliance Board member, Cynthia would bring a practitioner's lens rooted in field realities, a strong dedication to humanitarian principles, and a deep commitment to advancing accountability within the CHS Alliance.

Why is the CHS Alliance important to the sector?

The CHS Alliance plays a critical role in strengthening quality, accountability, and trust in humanitarian action. By promoting the Core Humanitarian Standard, it provides a shared framework that centres the rights, dignity, and agency of affected people.



At a time when the sector is under increasing pressure with the recent funding cuts to demonstrate impact, localisation, and ethical practice, the Alliance helps ensure that commitments translate into measurable improvements in how aid is delivered. It also serves as a vital platform for learning, collaboration, and collective accountability across diverse humanitarian actors.

What motivates you to join the Alliance's Board?

I am motivated to join the CHS Alliance Board because I want to contribute to strengthening accountability and quality in humanitarian response from both a global and practitioner perspective. As a human rights lawyer with extensive field experience, I bring a rights-based and principled approach to humanitarian action, grounded in a strong commitment to safeguarding, including PSEAH, and accountability to affected populations.

My professional journey, shaped by working across diverse humanitarian contexts and by my Nigerian background, drives my commitment to advancing localisation and ensuring that actors from crisis-affected settings are meaningfully represented in global decision-making spaces. I believe deeply in elevating perspectives that are often underrepresented and in bridging the gap between policy and practice.

Working from Sweden also gives me a Nordic perspective that values transparency, quality assurance, and robust accountability mechanisms. Through my engagement in networks such as SNHA, I regularly contribute to dialogues with Nordic actors and donors, advocating for stronger recognition of the CHS and supporting systemwide discussions on CHS passporting.

Joining the Board would be an opportunity for me to help the Alliance deepen its impact by translating standards into practice, strengthening partnerships with local actors, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and accountability across the sector. With my combined legal background, field-level experience, and policy engagement, I aim to contribute constructively to the Alliance's mission and to the continued strengthening of humanitarian quality and accountability globally.