

APPEAL TO GB AND C4C SIGNATORIES RESPONDING TO KERALA RESPONSE

Dear Grand Bargain and Charter for Change signatories,

The Indian state of Kerala is witnessing an unprecedented flooding. According to the report released by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on 25 August, a total of 415 people have died while 36 are still missing. Over 5 million people are affected, out of which 725,632 displaced people are still sheltering in 1,925 relief camps managed by the state. There is extensive damage to houses, infrastructure and livelihood avenues, and it will take years and significant amount of resources to rebuild Kerala.

It is heartening to see that many local, national and international organisations are complementing the efforts of the state government in providing immediate relief. We do hope that their role would continue during recovery and rehabilitation phases. Therefore, it is quite timely to remind all the stakeholders that this is yet another opportunity to show better delivery on the commitments made in the Grand Bargain¹ and Charter 4 Change² to strengthen the local response mechanism, and local and national actors.

The second annual report of Grand Bargain³ in June 2017 shows insufficient progress other than the three work streams, i.e., cash programming, participation revolution and multiyear planning and financing. The least progress was made on the work stream 2. Direct funding to local and national actors only 0.4% against 0.3% in the preceding year.

In the interest of an efficient and cost-effective response to the large number of disaster affected people, the Alliance for Empowering Partnerships makes following appeal to the international actors engaged in the response in Kerala, India:

1. The international headquarters of the GB and C4C signatories should remind their national offices about the commitments they are expected to adhere
2. Unless it could be justified, responses of national offices of international organisations should be through partnership with homegrown local and national actors. This should be an opportunity to reinforce, not replace
3. Indian CSOs are already doing commendable work on coordination and joint needs assessment, coordinated by Inter Agency Group and Sphere India. While that should sustain, more efforts should be made to bring down the management cost through joint partnership agreements, bringing down reporting requirement, shared procurement & logistics and so on
4. It is of utmost importance not only to pass on 25% and 20% of humanitarian funding by the GB and C4C signatories respectively, but also try to exceed it whenever and wherever possible
5. C4C signatories should constantly highlight the role of their local partners in all media communications
6. The Kerala floods is an outcome of flawed development practices. In order to seek durable solutions, it is important to work through humanitarian-development nexus by ensuring multi-year financing, beyond short term humanitarian funding.

We also call upon the GB and C4C signatories to organise a review in six months to track the progress on the commitments made by them.

International Convener committee
Alliance for Empowering Partnerships
www.a4ep.org

¹ Grand Bargain, <https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861>

² Charter 4 Change, <https://charter4change.org/>

³ Grand Bargain annual independent report 2018, Victoria Metcalfe-Hough and Lydian Pool, ODI June 2018, <https://www.odi.org/publications/11135-grand-bargain-annual-independent-report-2018>.