

Overview Conference Programme

11th May

13:30 – 14:00	Opening dialogue: Five years Grand Bargain – a missed chance for the Global South? Smruti Patel (Global Mentoring Initiative)	Facilitation Ralf Südhoff (CHA)
14:00 – 15:30	Panel 1: The Grand Bargain & the humanitarian reform process Smruti Patel (Global Mentoring Initiative) Claus Sørensen (former Director General ECHO) Farida Tchaichian Bena (International Rescue Committee, Sherpa for the GB)	Facilitation Ralf Südhoff (CHA)
15:30 – 16:00	BREAK	
16:00 – 17:30	Panel 2: New roles of intermediaries in a localised humanitarian system Sema Genel Karaosmanoğlu (Support to Life Turkey) Nkese Maria Udongwo (Caritas Nigeria) Ahmed Ibrahim Abdi (Arid Lands Development Focus Kenya)	Facilitation Darina Pellowska (CHA)

12th May

09:00 – 9:30	Key note dialogue: Germany & the Grand Bargain – driving or blocking top quality funding? Sibylle Katharina Sorg (German Federal Foreign Office)	Facilitation Ralf Südhoff (CHA)
09:30 – 10:30	Panel 3: The donor paradox – reform drivers blocking reform? Sorcha O'Callaghan (Humanitarian Policy Group) Sajid Raihan (START Fund Bangladesh)	Facilitation Ralf Südhoff (CHA)
10:30 – 11:00	BREAK	
11:00 – 11:30	Spotlight Session: The Grand Bargain and Gender Grace G. Ireri (ActionAid International)	Facilitation Goda Milasiute (CHA Fellow)
11:30 – 12:00	Spotlight Session: Innovation and humanitarian change Ben Ramalingam (UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub)	Facilitation Sonja Hövelmann (CHA)
12:00 – 12:30	Spotlight Session: Pre-empting the counter-reformation – the ethics of humanitarian reform Kristoffer Lidén (Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies)	Facilitation Andrea Steinke (CHA)
12:30	Wrap up of CHA annual conference	Facilitation Darina Pellowska (CHA)

Detailed Conference Programme

Tuesday – 11th May Afternoon Programme

Opening dialogue:
Five years Grand Bargain –
a missed chance for the Global South?
13:30 – 14:00

Smruti Patel (Global Mentoring Initiative)

Facilitation by Ralf Südhoff (CHA)

Smruti Patel is the founder of Global Mentoring Initiative (GMI). She has been working in the sector since 1995. Since her involvement in the Tsunami Thematic Evaluation in 2006 “Impact of the international response on local and national capacities”, she has been actively working on accountability to affected populations and localisation. In 2014, she carried out consultations with Syrian NGOs operating in Syria and in the run up to WHS 2016 she carried out consultations on the challenges for local organization and organized the discussions at the WHS. In 2016, she was also involved in the research to develop the seven dimensions localisation framework for the Start Network, to assess and measure their progress towards localisation, this framework is more widely used for country level studies and by individual agencies. She is now actively involved in advocating for the change in the humanitarian system to more locally led response. She is a member of [Charter4Change](#) coordination group and a member of the International Convening Committee of [Alliance for Empowering Partnership](#) represents A4EP in the GB localisation work stream.

Panel 1:

The Grand Bargain

& the humanitarian reform process

14:00 – 15:30

Smruti Patel (Global Mentoring Initiative)

Claus Sørensen (Fmr. Director General ECHO)

Farida Tchaichian Bena (International Rescue Committee Sherpa for the GB)

Facilitation by Ralf Südhoff (CHA)

Abstract: May 2021 marks the fifth anniversary of the first World Humanitarian Summit and the agreed Grand Bargain (GB). The GB was planned as a key initiative to substantially reform humanitarian action based on ten commitments. As its five-year timeframe is coming to an end, it is time to take stock: what has been achieved and what is yet to be done? Challenges like the inclusion of Global South views and representatives as well as donor and INGO performances in driving and blocking reform at the same time will be discussed, as well as a potential GB 2.0 in the context of a renewed humanitarian reform debate linked to the global Covid-19 response.

As Director-General of ECHO (2012 – 2016), **Claus Sørensen** was in charge of European humanitarian response in places like Syria, Nepal, Myanmar, South Sudan, DRC, the CAR, Haiti and Colombia as well as targeting pandemics such as Ebola and SARS. Claus was involved drought and famine in the Horn and the Sahel. He has assisted UN OCHA and WHO in improving their disaster response, learning from the Ebola pandemic. Claus also teamed up with the DAC / OECD to reduce fragility and vulnerability through resilience policies and the Triple NEXUS linking peace, development and humanitarian aid in places like Uganda, Tchad and Nigeria. Through the Transformative Agenda, Claus helped to pave the way for the Grand Bargain and in particular its focus on effectiveness and local ownership.

Presently as Board member at the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Dubai International Humanitarian and Development forum, the Institute Bioforce in Lyon, and Chair of the Global Executive Leadership Initiative Claus is actively engaged in improving the humanitarian delivery.

Farida Bena brings over 20 years of experience with a special focus on accountability and aid effectiveness. Since 2017, Farida leads the IRC on Geneva-based strategic policy and advocacy priorities and represents the organisation as IRC Sherpa within the Grand Bargain. Among her previous roles, she worked for the OECD and Oxfam. She has also consulted with the European Commission, UNICEF and several NGOs in in Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Farida holds a Master's degree in International Relations from Yale University and another Master's degree in English from the University of Milan. Among her publications, she has co-authored IRC's report *A Win-Win: Multi-year flexible funding is better for people and better value for donors.*

Panel 2:
**New roles of intermediaries in a
localised humanitarian system**
16:00 – 17:30

Sema Genel Karaosmanoğlu (Support to
Life Turkey)

Nkese Maria Udongwo (Caritas Nigeria)

Ahmed Ibrahim Abdi (Arid Lands
Development Focus Kenya)

Facilitation by Darina Pellowska (CHA)

Abstract: Honouring the Grand Bargain commitment to strengthen local humanitarian assistance, many international organisations are currently adapting their role in operational humanitarian assistance, including their presence on the ground. While some are decentralising their work, building new networks, others are developing exit-plans to ultimately pull out of operational work at all. In this panel we will hear from dedicated practitioners from different regions how these diverse approaches to the future role of INGOs in localised humanitarian assistance play out in practice.

BREAK (15:30 – 16:00)

Sema Genel Karaosmanoğlu has been working in the field of humanitarian aid and international development for over 23 years. She has carried out project work in India, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and now focuses on work inside Turkey. Sema has worked as consultant to several aid and development agencies working internationally. In 2005, Sema became the founding member and Director of Hayata Destek / Support to Life (STL), a humanitarian aid organization with headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey. In addition to emergency relief and recovery work, STL is involved in protection and resilience work for displaced populations. With a Ph.D. degree in Political Science and Public Administration, Sema has lectured in several universities in Istanbul. Given her vast experience and expertise in humanitarian action, Sema leads discussions on localisation of aid and the role of national actors.

Nkese Maria Udongwo has over 23 years work experience, with 10 years working as a humanitarian and development professional in Nigeria and the United Kingdom. She currently works with Caritas Nigeria as Director of Humanitarian Services, overseeing a wide portfolio of multi-sectoral humanitarian interventions across Nigeria. She champions the localisation agenda through advocacies, serving in localisation steering committees, speaking in conferences and meetings at national and global levels. She is a Co-Chair of the National Localisation Working Group (NLWG) in Nigeria and serves as a Trustee of the Women in Humanitarian Response Initiative in Nigeria (WiHRiNI).

Ahmed Ibrahim Abdi (Chief Executive Officer, ALDEF and Convener ASAL Humanitarian Network for Local and National agencies in Kenya) is a passionate local and global champion of the localisation agenda, devolved climate finance and advocate of a systems approach to predictable shock responsive social protection to enable resilience of disaster prone communities. He has held senior positions with various international organisations and has himself now localised to walk the talk. He has over 30 years of experience in humanitarian, governance and development sectors. In addition to his involvement in the large scale 2011 famine crisis, the 2004/5 Tsunami and 2006/2007 drought/conflict IDPs responses in the Horn of Africa, Ahmed convened a humanitarian network an advocacy platform for localisation in Kenya, thereby amplifying community voices and an effective aid system.

Wednesday – 12th May Morning Programme

Key note dialogue:

Germany & the Grand Bargain - driving or blocking top quality funding?

09:00 – 09:30

Sibylle Katharina Sorg (German Federal Foreign Office)

Facilitation by Ralf Südhoff (CHA)

Ambassador **Sibylle Katharina Sorg** is Director General for Crisis Prevention, Stabilisation, Peace Building and Humanitarian Assistance at the Federal Foreign Office. Previously, she served as Director for Relations with European Union Member States. She was Deputy Chief of Staff for Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Head Political Department at the German Embassy in London and Deputy Head Middle East Division at the Federal Foreign Office. She also served as spokesperson of the Ministry on EU, Western Europe and Africa and was posted to Tel Aviv, Sydney and Dublin. Ambassador Sorg holds an M.A. degree in History, Political Sciences and Journalism.

Panel 3:

The donor paradox – Reform drivers blocking reform?

09:30 – 10:30

Sorcha O'Callaghan (Humanitarian Policy Group)

Sajid Raihan (START Fund Bangladesh)

Facilitation by Ralf Südhoff (CHA)

Sorcha O'Callaghan is the Director of the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI where she leads research and analysis on the humanitarian system, financing and reform; inclusion and exclusion in humanitarian action and protection, displacement and livelihoods. A specialist in displacement, civilian protection and humanitarian action in protracted crises, she has worked extensively in East Africa and published widely. Prior to HPG she was Head of Humanitarian Policy at the British Red Cross and previously coordinated the Sudan Advocacy Coalition, an NGO policy and advocacy consortium in Sudan. With a background in law, Sorcha has also worked in the refugee and asylum sector in Ireland.

Five Years Grand Bargain –Time to Restart Humanitarian Reform?

11-12 May 2021

Abstract: Quality funding is aside localisation issues one of the priority topics in the focus for an extended Grand Bargain 2.0 process. This mirrors achievements as well as ongoing challenges of donors, UN agencies and NGOs to provide or forward quality funding in terms of flexible and multiyear support in a transparent manner. The session will discuss donor governments' and agencies' performances as well as trends often perceived as conflicting like the "accountability" and "value for money" debates. It will deepen its analysis based on the examples of Germany as a donor and the START fund as a transferring body.

Sajid Raihan is the Country Manager of Start Fund Bangladesh since its initiation in 2017. He is currently working with civil society, networks and platforms for the evolution of this funding mechanism for aid localisation. He has a strong interest around action research, advocacy, partnership brokering and networking. He is skilled in development programming, with special focus on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and emergency response preparedness. Prior to joining Start Fund Bangladesh, he was working with ActionAid Bangladesh as Deputy Director- Programme, Policy and Campaigns. He did his MA International Development from the University of Manchester, and MA English Literature from the University of Chittagong.

BREAK (10:30 – 11:00)

Spotlight Sessions

Spotlight 1:
The Grand Bargain and Gender
11:00 – 11:30

Grace G. Ileri (ActionAid International)

Facilitation by Goda Milasiute (CHA Fellow)

Abstract: In recent years, gender considerations have become more prominent within the Grand Bargain context. Indeed, gender is – or should be – relevant for all Grand Bargain workstreams, including localisation, cash programming, and quality funding. While there is progress made in some of the areas, a lot still needs to be done in order to meaningfully embed a gender-responsive approach, and thus transform the humanitarian system so that it is accountable to crisis affected communities as well as ensures that gender and power are at the centre of that transformation. In this Spotlight Session, we will discuss some of the advancements made, the remaining challenges, as well as how they can be addressed in the next phase of the Grand Bargain.

Grace G. Ileri is a development practitioner with 20 years' experience in conflict-sensitive development approaches, project management, capacity strengthening of civil society institutions and rights-based humanitarian influencing.

Grace joined the ActionAid Federation in 2015 and is currently serving in the role of Local Humanitarian Partnerships Advisor within the International Humanitarian and Resilience Team (IHART). In this role, she is leading the implementation commitments on meaningful partnerships between ActionAid federation members and humanitarian partners, focusing on promoting women-led localisation across the federation, and with programme projects in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somaliland, Kenya, Myanmar, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine (Gaza).

More recently Grace is leading on the participation of ActionAid and women-led organization partners in global and African humanitarian platforms that include the Grand Bargain, the Feminist Humanitarian Network, the Localisation Task team of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies and the Charter for Change.

Spotlight 2:

Innovation and humanitarian change

11:30 – 12:00

Ben Ramalingam (UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub)

Facilitation by Sonja Hövelmann (CHA)

Abstract: Five years into the Grand Bargain some expectations regarding systemic change that render the system more efficient and effective have been sobered. Black Lives Matter, Covid-19 and climate crisis underline the need for transformational change in *what* humanitarian actors do and *how* they do it. Despite strong initiatives, a systematic resilience is inherent in the humanitarian ‘ecosystem’ which hinders transformational change because the big players are benefiting from the status quo. For example, there is little change in greater transparency, accountability or localisation because there are few incentives powerful enough to shift the way how humanitarian organisations work. With our distinguished guest we will discuss what are inhibitors and enablers to change? Does innovation have the power to bring about an institutional/cultural change? Or do we perhaps have utopian expectations what innovation can do?

Ben Ramalingam is a British researcher, author and innovator. He has worked with and advised leading institutions of humanitarian action including the United Nation, Red Cross, governments and NGOs. He worked at the Overseas Development Institute and the Institute of Development Studies.

He has written several acclaimed books among them *Aid on the Edge of Chaos* and a forthcoming book called *Upshift* which both deal with transformation and systemic change of international development.

He has founded and chaired the Humanitarian Innovation Fund during his time with ALNAP. He is currently Executive Director at the recently founded UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub.

Last year Ben Ramalingam was honoured as Humanitarian Change Maker of the decade by the Start Network, among many other honorary awards that he received for his immense work, leadership and contributions to humanitarian change.

Five Years Grand Bargain –Time to Restart Humanitarian Reform?

11-12 May 2021

Spotlight 3:

Pre-empting the counter-reformation – the ethics of humanitarian reform

12:00 – 12:30

Kristoffer Lidén (Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies)

Facilitation by Andrea Steinke (CHA)

Abstract: The success of humanitarian reform at the Grand Bargain would reinforce humanitarian action as a major mode of global governance. Neither long-term flexible funding, increased support to local agencies or more representative participation can outweigh the inequitable, undemocratic and fragile foundations of this structure. In effect, an inflated humanitarian system risks being burst like a bubble by a double sided counter-reformation from nationalist and democratic quarters. This leaves us with the question of whether there is a different path for reform that would harmonise better with the humanitarian ethos of alleviating avoidable suffering on a global scale.

Kristoffer Lidén is a Senior researcher at PRIO and member of the Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies (NCHS). Holding a PhD in Philosophy and MA in Peace and Conflict Studies, his research centres on the ethics of international affairs with a focus on the fields of peacebuilding, humanitarian action, security politics and digital technology. His publications and projects include 'The Protection of Civilians and ethics of humanitarian governance: beyond intervention and resilience' and Do no harm: ethical humanitarian innovation and digital bodies.

WRAP-UP & END OF THE CONFERENCE