

7 June 2021

Dear Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator,

The lack of predictable and accountable coordination arrangements for humanitarian cash continues to hamper the scale, quality and timeliness of humanitarian response leading to a direct impact on the people we aim to serve. **Given the clear evidence of operational impact, the strong demand for a decision across the humanitarian system, and the rapid growth of humanitarian cash, we call on the IASC to take a decision on the leadership and scope of cash coordination within the broader humanitarian coordination architecture in the coming year.**

With the rapid increase in humanitarian cash<sup>1</sup> (particularly multipurpose cash), which makes up nearly 20% of all humanitarian aid, the humanitarian architecture must adapt to support this growth, or risk no longer being fit for purpose.

The lack of clarity over responsibility for leadership and the scope of cash coordination<sup>2</sup> has led to confusion, a lack of capacity and a heavy reliance on short-term external support mechanisms to fulfil these core functions. Cash Working Groups (CWGs) have been established in 39 countries to meet this need. While the majority of CWGs are established under the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group ([ICCG](#)), in line with guidance, they rely on actors in-country to voluntarily take responsibility for leadership and resourcing. CaLP's State of the World's Cash 2020 Report found that [90 percent](#) of key informants feel that lack of clarity on cash coordination is having serious operational impacts.<sup>3</sup>

A significant [number of efforts have been made](#) - by the [World Bank](#), Global Clusters, UN, [donors](#), [CaLP](#), [NGOs](#) and independent research organisations - to highlight the challenges and provide ways forward. Specifically, the IASC has received clear calls from [donors](#), [NGOs](#) and from the Eminent Person to take a number of key decisions on cash coordination. Despite these efforts, which are representative of the majority of the humanitarian community, limited progress has been made to address the systemic cash coordination challenges. The inclusion of cash coordination as a priority for humanitarian leaders, and the clarity around their placement as [ICCG sub-groups](#) in the recently-published [RC/HC handbook](#) is welcome, but questions on predictable leadership and the inclusion of multipurpose cash in the humanitarian architecture remain unanswered while further perpetuating ad-hoc arrangements.

H.E. Sigrid Kaag, the Eminent Person of the Grand Bargain, named cash coordination as the ["Achilles heel" of the humanitarian system, and chose resolving this as one of four priority](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Including cash and voucher assistance. This increase does not include the USD 100 million [CERF allocation](#) made in 2020, 80% of which funded humanitarian cash.

<sup>2</sup> Cash coordination does not refer to operational cash collaboration initiatives, e.g. CCD and UNCCS.

<sup>3</sup> These are detailed in the [State of World's Cash 2020 report](#), but include: limiting the use and effectiveness of multipurpose cash, lack of harmonization of transfer values, lack of tools for support to CVA across the response, duplication and gaps in CVA response, limited links to and concerted communication with FSPs and government.

[issues for the final year of the Grand Bargain](#). As the current iteration of the Grand Bargain comes to a close, no progress has been made on resolving this issue.

This letter, while originating within the Grand Bargain Cash sub-workstream on Political Blockages, represents the collective voice of all the undersigned. The signatories to this document are seeking an agreement that provides accountable, predictable coordination of humanitarian cash, including how it relates to response analysis, within the broader humanitarian coordination architecture. In a context where conflict, climate and COVID-19 are exacerbating humanitarian needs globally we can no longer ignore the cost and implications of the lack of cash coordination and the clear opportunities for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian responses. Effective coordination is required to maximize the impact of humanitarian cash.

We request that the resolution of cash coordination builds upon the substantial research which has been conducted and facilitates an inclusive process whereby agencies put aside self-interest and keep the interest of the world's most vulnerable at the fore. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

1. Aristide Jean François Zongo, Executive Director, ABSE
2. Lars Peter Nissen, Director, ACAPS
3. Niall O'Rourke, Head of Humanitarian Affairs, ACT Alliance
4. André Krummacher, Vice CEO Programmes, Impact & Accountability, ACTED & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
5. Sara Almer, Humanitarian Director, ActionAid
6. Pascal Revault, Expertise and Advocacy Director, Action Contre La Faim & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
7. Abdourahamane Aissatou Alassane, Country Representative, ADESA
8. Steve Matthews, Executive Director, ADRA Canada
9. Michael Kruger, President, ADRA International
10. Jonathan Guerengonda, Executive Director, ADRDH
11. James Shepherd-Barron MIH, PhD (hc), Executive Director, Aid Essentials Ltd.
12. Antonia Potter Prentice, Director, Alliance2015
13. Dr Edwina Thompson, CEO, Amanacard
14. James Gilling, Humanitarian Coordinator, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Government
15. Guy Rayée, General Director of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid a.i., Kingdom of Belgium
16. David Peppiatt, Director of Humanitarian Cash Assistance Programme, Cash and Markets, British Red Cross
17. Stephen Salewicz, Director General of the International Humanitarian Assistance Bureau, Global Affairs Canada
18. Karen Peachey, Director, The Cash Learning Partnership

19. Sofia Sprechmann Sineiro, Secretary General, CARE International & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
20. Ron Delnevo, Chairman, Cash and Cards Consultants
21. Gabrielle Fox, Director, Cash Consortium for Iraq
22. Jennifer Poidatz, Vice President Humanitarian Response, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
23. Christian Modino Hok, Humanitarian Director, CBM Global Disability Inclusion
24. Mr. Piersilvio Fagiano, General Manager, Cesvi
25. Meg Gardiner, Secretary General, ChildFund Alliance
26. Robin Greenwood, International Programmes Director, Christian Aid
27. Moses Egayu, Executive Director, Church of Uganda - Teso Dioceses Planning and Development Office
28. Dominic Crowley, Emergencies Director, Concern Worldwide & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
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32. Rikke Friis, Director of Programmes, Policy and External Relations Department, Danish Refugee Council
33. Mette Thygesen, Director, Humanitarian Action, Civil Society and Engagement, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
34. Mathias Mogge, Secretary General & CEO, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V.
35. Jonathan Faulkner, CEO, Development Pathways
36. Paraskevi Michou, Director-General, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
37. Surya Prakash Rai, Executive Chief, ETSC Nepal
38. Satu Santala, Director General, Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
39. Tomi Järvinen, Deputy Executive Director, Finn Church Aid
40. Matthew Wyatt, Director, Humanitarian and Migration Directorate, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
41. Dr. Thomas Zahneisen, Director for Humanitarian Affairs, German Federal Foreign Office
42. Michael Faye, CEO, GiveDirectly
43. Joanna Reid, Director of International Programmes, GOAL
44. Dr. Julia Steets, Director, Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi)
45. Nick van Praag, Director & Founder, Groundtruth Solutions
46. Sudhanshu S. Singh, Founder & CEO, HAI India
47. Samuel Wood, Head of Humanitarian, HelpAge International
48. Elly Anyandru Moses, Executive Director, Here is Life
49. Mark J. Hetfield, President & CEO, HIAS
50. George Fenton, Chief Executive, Humanitarian Logistics Association
51. Sorcha O'Callaghan, Director, Humanitarian Policy Group

52. Hervé Bernard, Global Director of the Technical Unit on Social & Inclusion, Humanity & Inclusion
53. Luca Pupulin, Executive Director, IMPACT Initiatives
54. Pascale Meige, Director, Disasters Climate and Crises, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
55. Bob Kitchen, Vice President, Emergencies, International Rescue Committee & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
56. Alda Cappelletti, Director of Programmes, INTERSOS
57. Frank Smyth, Humanitarian Director, Development Cooperation and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland
58. Simon Reed, Deputy Director, IrisGuard UK Ltd
59. Waseem Ahmad, Director of International Programme Division, Islamic Relief Worldwide
60. Isak Pretorius, Group Executive Director, JAM International
61. Abukar Osman Abdi, Executive Director, Juba Foundation
62. Dr. Asha Mohammed, Secretary General, Kenya Red Cross Society
63. Helene Juillard, Director, Key Aid Consulting
64. David Verboom, Chief Executive Officer, Medair
65. Anissa Toscano, Vice President, Humanitarian Leadership and Response, Mercy Corps & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
66. Irfan Khan, Director Humanitarian and International Partnerships, Muslim Hands
67. Mariët Schuurman, Director Stabilisation and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
68. Merete Fjeld Brattested, Director General Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Multilateral Cooperation
69. Marit Glad, Global Programme Director, Norwegian Refugee Council
70. Nigel Timmins, Humanitarian Director, Oxfam International
71. Jan Mrkvič, Director, People in Need
72. Jorgen Haldorsen, Director, Disaster Risk Management, Plan International
73. Nancy Izzo Jackson, Senior Bureau Official, U.S. State Department, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
74. Hakan Buyukbayrak, Director, RedRose
75. Gabriella Waaijman, Global Humanitarian Director, Save the Children & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) member
76. Gareth Owen OBE, Humanitarian Director, Save the Children UK & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) Board Chair
77. Peter McDevitt, Chief Operations and Finance Officer, Self Help Africa
78. Tristan Cole, Director, Sempo
79. Kevin Goldberg, CEO, Solidarités International
80. Dr Balwant Singh, Executive Director, Sphere
81. Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, Chief Executive Officer, Sphere India
82. Pete Garratt, Executive Director - Programmes and People, Street Child
83. Carl Skau, Deputy Director-General, Head of Department for UN Policy, Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs, Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

84. Manuel Bessler, Deputy Director General, Head of Humanitarian Aid Department and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
85. Oenone Chadburn, Head of Humanitarian & Resilience, Tearfund
86. Caiomhe de Barra, CEO, Trócaire
87. Alper Kucuk, Deputy Director General & Chief International Officer, Türk Kızılay (TRCS)
88. Sarah Charles, Assistant to the Administrator, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
89. Diana Tonea, Consortium Director, VenEsperanza
90. Colette Fearon, Director of Programmes, War Child UK
91. Aydrus S. Daar, Executive Director, WASDA
92. Sarah Costa, Executive Director, Women's Refugee Commission
93. Dr Ibrahima Soce Fall, Assistant Director-General, Emergency Response, WHO Health Emergencies Programme World Health Organization
94. Justin Byworth, Global Humanitarian Director, World Vision International & Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD) Board Member
95. C.W.A. Visser, Chief Programme Officer, ZOA Netherlands