



cbha

The Consortium of British
Humanitarian Agencies

Office address c/o Save the Children UK
1 St. John's Lane | London EC1M 4AR | UK
info@thecbha.org | +44 20 7012 6869

CBHA statement on the HERR final report

The Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies welcomes the foresight and courage of the Secretary of State in commissioning the HERR and congratulates Lord Ashdown and his team for their contribution. We are hopeful that the report's recommendations will form the foundation of a transformative moment for DFID and other humanitarian stakeholders.

This is the time for transformation. Large scale emergencies in 2010 have demonstrated the limits of the current humanitarian system. As Lord Ashdown has said, "merely improving upon what we have done in the past – enhancing the status quo – will not be sufficient. We must devise new ways to meet the new challenges".

The CBHA is an existing consortium that is committed to addressing the challenges highlighted in the report. The CBHA was created to improve NGO capacity, deliver efficient and effective humanitarian response and help improve the humanitarian system. Over its first year, it has proven itself, and should now be taken to scale.

NGOs play a crucial role and get things done. We have great strengths: speed, cost-effectiveness, quality, innovation, agility, accountability, and relationships with people on the ground. NGOs build relationships with all the other humanitarian stakeholders, especially local organisations and local government to improve the humanitarian response. Yet, we recognise NGOs also need to improve and adapt to meet new challenges. This requires DFID's help and on-going support.

The HERR report recommends increasing predictable multi-year funding linked to NGO performance; and bolstering long-term support to NGO consortia such as the CBHA.

The CBHA has a key role to play in helping DFID deliver upon the HERR recommendations. The CBHA is a pivotal coalition for humanitarian practitioners, an incubator for testing ideas, and a network for scaling successful innovations. The CBHA is an NGO funding channel that can contribute a more resilient, faster, and effective humanitarian system to scale with people affected by crisis at the centre.

Adding to the CBHA's own efforts to further build NGO capacity, most CBHA members believe that significant results can be achieved if DFID worked in partnership with us to:

- allocate more funding to humanitarian response
- invest seriously in capacity building, innovation and learning over 5-10 years
- invest £100 Million per year in a global emergency fund for NGOs

We would welcome a bold and ambitious statement from DFID regarding its future partnership with the CBHA to strengthen the third pillar of humanitarian endeavour.

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ActionAid; ACF (UK); CAFOD; CARE International UK; Christian Aid; Concern Worldwide (UK); HelpAge International; IRC (UK); Islamic Relief; Merlin; Oxfam GB; Plan International (UK); Save the Children Fund; Tearfund; World Vision UK