

Voting results and Stakeholder Recommendations

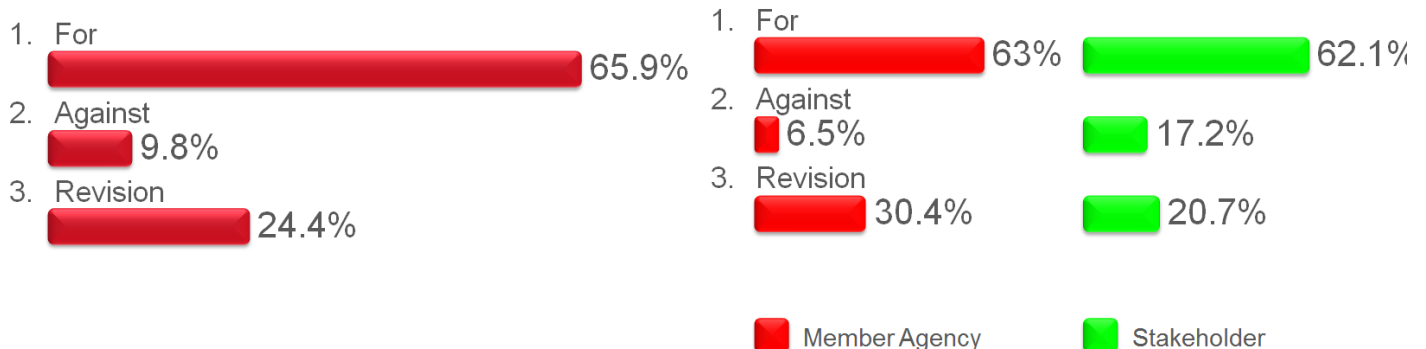
The Start Network Annual Conference brought together over 100 stakeholders to debate and vote upon the future direction of the collaboration. The audience, of which 58.5% were member agency representatives, and 41.5% were external stakeholders, voted as follows on motions put forward by members of the General Assembly.

Morning Session

Motion 1 – presented by Matthew Carter (CAFOD)

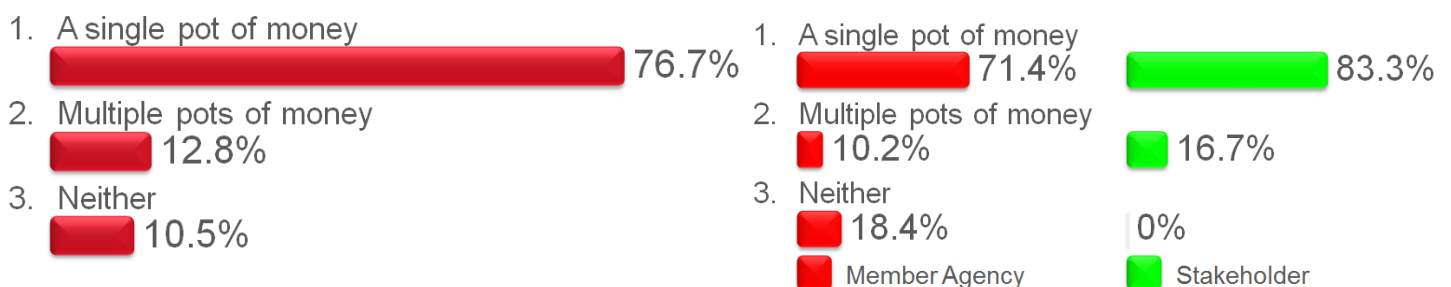
“Start Network will lead and create a global network of networks”

- With support and management from the Start team
- The mission of which will be: funding, capacity, innovation, and platform
- And the Start Network will create an international representative team to guide and develop the formation of a network of networks



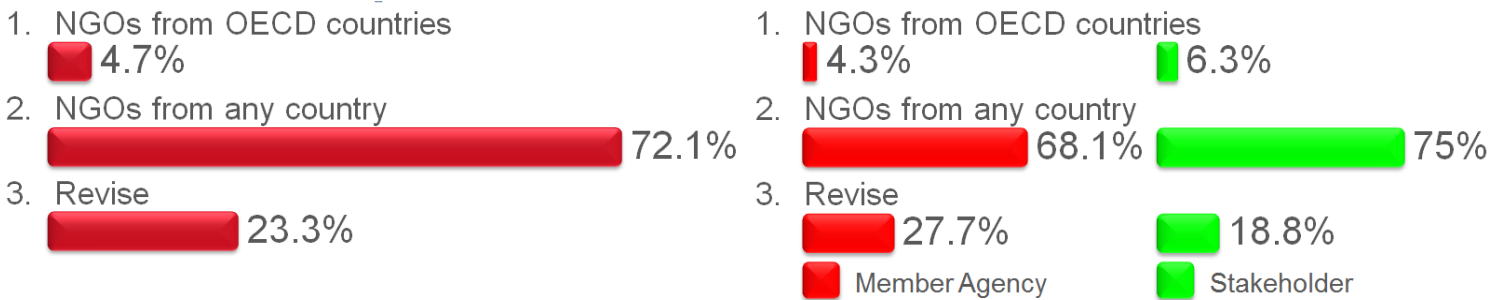
Motion 2 – presented by Sean Lowrie (Start)

The Start Fund will consist of:



Motion 3 – presented by Sean Lowrie

The Start Network membership will expand to include:



A further motion was discussed but no vote was cast:

“The Start Network membership will expand to include:

1. Bringing in new NGO members with the intent to support the establishment of their own ‘Start Network hub’ in future
2. Bringing in new NGO members on equal terms to the current Start Network members
3. Revise”

Afternoon Session

Motion 4 – presented by Imran Madden (Islamic Relief)

The following 3 motions were displayed however, Imran did not feel they represented the motion he had prepared to present. 3 new motions were agreed upon and a vote held.

Original version:

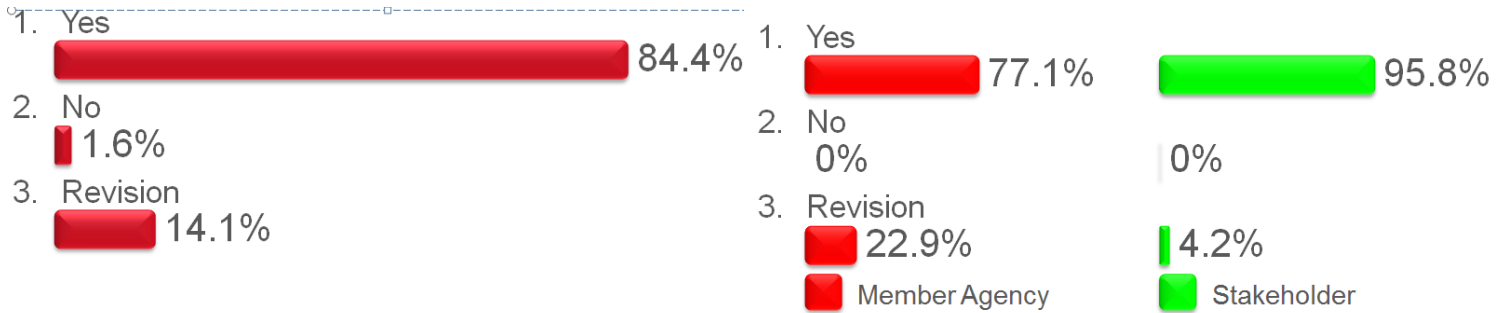
“To begin shifting the humanitarian centre of gravity, the Start Network must:

- a. Bring ‘southern’ voices onto the Network Board
- b. Create decentralised decision making mechanisms
- c. Seek advice from disaster affected communities on its direction for growth”

This was revised to the following:

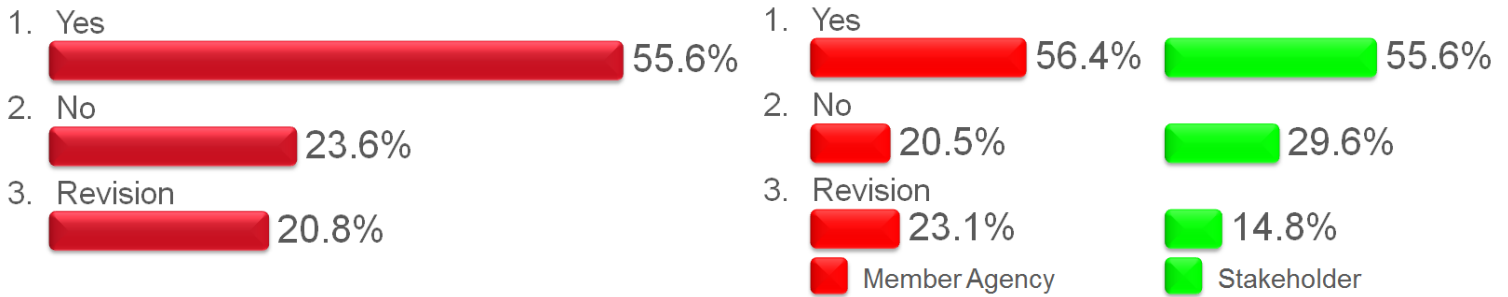
4. To begin shifting the humanitarian centre of gravity, the Start Network must:

- Proactively seek talented "southern" voices and encourage them to apply for the independent positions in the Network board



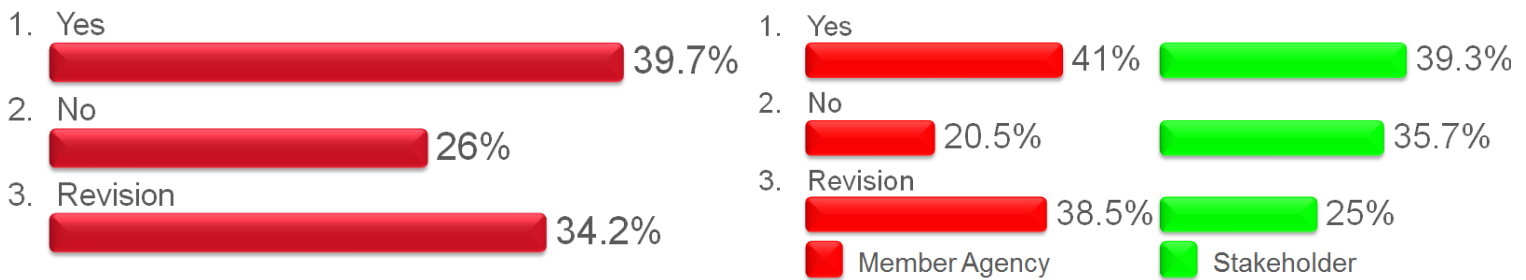
4. To begin shifting the humanitarian centre of gravity, the Start Network must:

- Establish a quota of one or two board positions reserved for southern voices



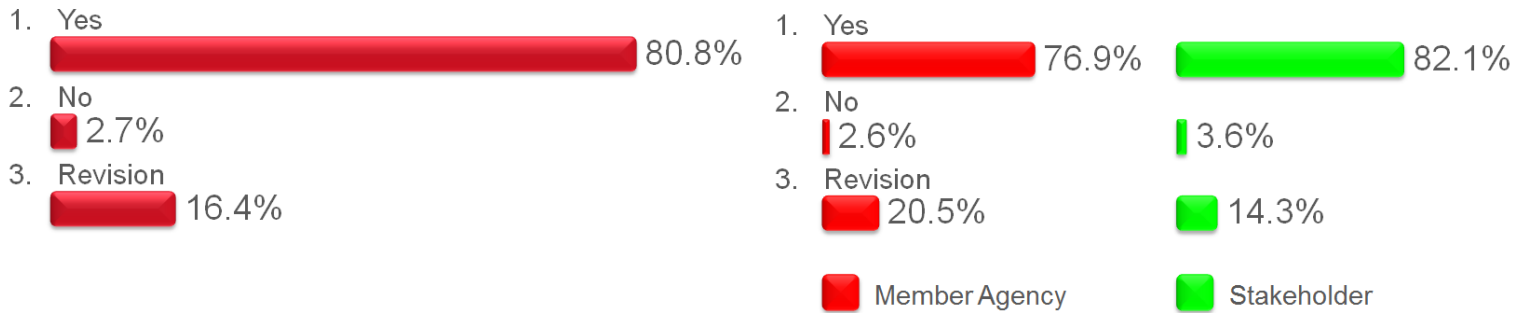
4. To begin shifting the humanitarian centre of gravity, the Start Network must:

- Create a new role (e.g. Advisory), for southern voices to engage and work with the board without being a formal part of it



4. To begin shifting the humanitarian centre of gravity, the Start Network must:

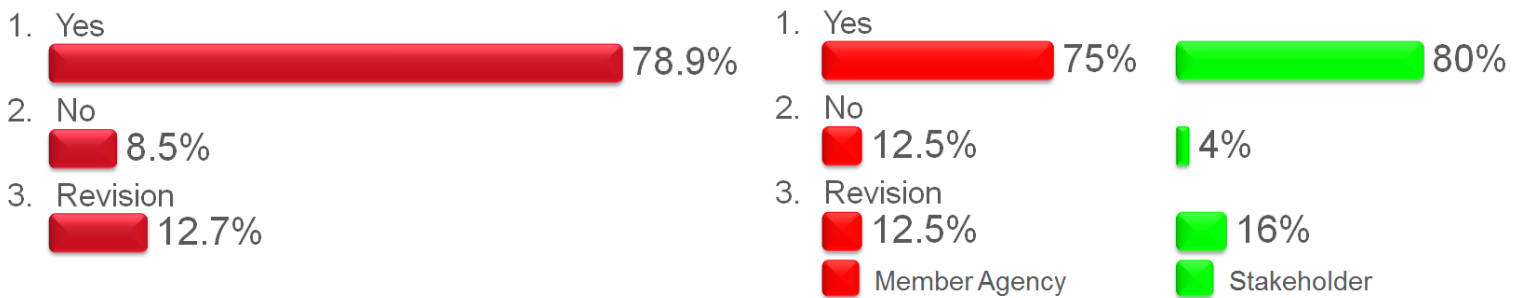
- Ensure significant presence and engagement of southern voices in the next assembly



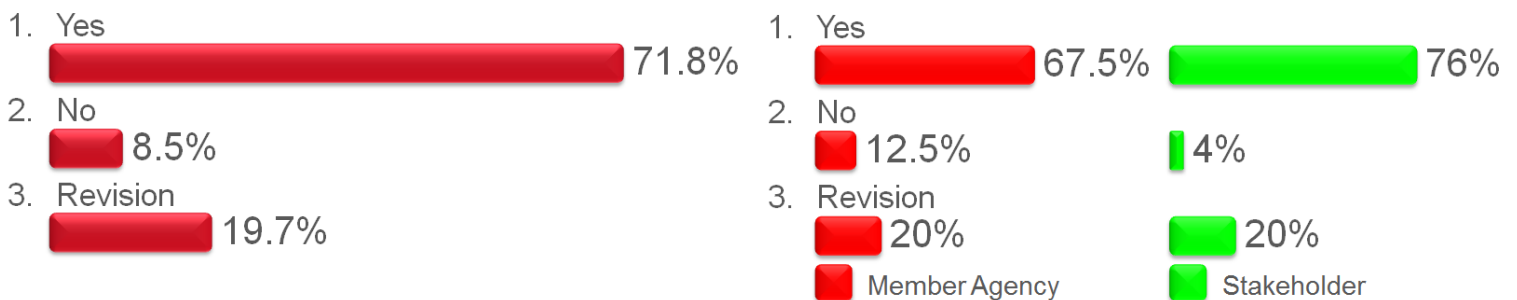
Motion 5 – presented by Sanj Srikanthan (IRC) and Paul Currion (Start Network)

Clarifying questions established that these motions should be voted on based on using the collective power of the Start Network agencies rather than a commitment from individual network agencies.

5.1. Start Network members will foster intuitional environments that lower barriers to innovation for their staff



5.2 Start Network members will challenge existing monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes, to connect them to specific decision making needs



Summary recommendations

1. Start Network's long-term direction of travel is towards a Network of Networks
2. Start Fund will be a single global funding system
3. National NGOs should be part of the Network
4. We must commit to bringing local voices in now (6 months is too late)
5. Start Network wants to leverage its collective power within the innovation and learning space

The conversations didn't stop there:

All members of the audience were invited to submit motion amendments, new motions, comments or suggestions anonymously into a box. These comments capture the nuanced nature of the debate and could be the basis for debate at future Assemblies, Conferences or Network discussions.

Suggested revisions for Motion 1

- Global network of networks - rather a global network of actors who could be networks or other modalities. Therefore being inclusive and open to new ways of working.
- Start Team not just about creating the formation of new networks but facilitating the alignment of all networks towards a common goal/vision (strategy?) to help ensure humanitarian action is collective and so more effective. The mission is not visionary enough. It MUST include how we empower the actual affected communities - how they are enabled to demand what they want, how etc. from INGOs/partners (and appropriate governments)
- Based on its principles and mission (accelerating crisis response) and consistent with its work streams (fund, build, beta, learn) the start network should unleash into the system partnership brokers (international, national local) to foster or facilitate the formation of bold networks.
- A Network of Networks - this is the future and there are already network of networks in existence - local/national/international for issues on climate change. Steve Wadell has done lots of work on global action networks his work is a good reference point.
- Start Network will reach out and broker relationships with other networks particularly from the global South.

Suggested revisions for Motion 2

- Single pot idea – yes- but then allocated out (as part of annual budgeting cycle) to regional level so they are empowered to allocate at regional level (with national level project selection committee).

Suggested revisions for Motion 3

- Our members may not just be NGOs – it could include a range of different types of civil society and private sector organisations.

Suggested revisions for Motion 4

- Suggestions on managing this process: rather than allocating 2 places to 'southern' voices the board should be selected on the basis of a key skills mix - with this 2 members have each skills set. One of these skills sets should be experience of running a local/national NGO network in the south and the ability to represent views of the south based on this experience.
- In order to shift the centre of gravity the Start Network must create space and resource for southern actors' participation in governance in Start network activities on the ground/in the field.
- For Start Network member agencies to consult/engage with their local/national/regional CSO networks or organisations re: Start's mission and direction.

Suggestions for new Motions:

- Start should give priority to developing proposals for reform of risk-averse donor funding procedures which hinder efforts to strengthen local NGO capacity.
- Start Build should prioritise locally led partner based capacity building projects in its future project selection.
- Start network should prioritise relationship building with southern local networks for the next 6 months

Observations:

- How can the members suspend traditional ways of supporting models that are well and tested and shape new/different/fresh approaches which may not be tried and tested? What will it TAKE?
- What does having /engaging southern voices really mean? What will be different as this aspiration is attained?
- A key question for membership expansion is not where the members are based, but if they are national or international NGOs
- Strongly support motion to have representation of southern voices on board. If there is not representation at this level of governance it calls into question the commitment to the declaration of intent.
- This ended up being around membership rather than what we mean about shifting the gravity. Membership will help but not the sole answer by a long way. We need to have a strategy/theory of change to deliver the DOI against otherwise we'll be so focussed on Fund + Build we'll miss other really important aspects and not achieve as much as possible.