



July 2023 Updates

Dear all,

In the month since I joined Adeso, I've had 62 conversations, with over 100 different individuals, representing 17 organizations. In this month of discovery and exploration, I have heard from Pledge for Change (PfC) signatories and supporters; from civil society leaders; activists; CEOs; technical specialists; researchers; donors, and partners.

Perhaps most exciting and engaging for me during this month has been the value of learning from differences - of experiences, opinions, and of approaches. There are divergent views on how best to achieve the pledges, and some impatience with processes that seek to build consensus across organizations with very different operating models.

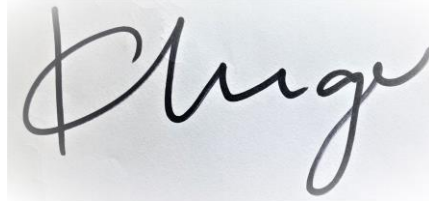
I'm struck by how much similarity and alignment there is on the intent: the urgent need to transform the aid ecosystem so that power, resources, and decision making are situated with and for people experiencing poverty and crisis – both in order to increase effectiveness of the delivery of humanitarian and development interventions, and to challenge the paradigms that maintain people in situations of exclusion and discrimination.

What makes PfC different and exciting, I believe, after these initial conversations, is the commitment to being "locally-led and globally connected". In practice, this means working across organizations, hierarchies, and functions that sometimes divide us. We should be challenging binaries, and modeling accountability to communities and constituents. It means that we must move forward with leadership from local organizations, informed by the rights, needs and priorities of communities.

Those who have signed up believe in this transformation, and believe that we can contribute to a stronger aid

ecosystem based on principles of solidarity, humility, self-determination, and equality.

I am happy to share the latest updates below. We hope to share more comprehensive updates every quarter.



Pledge By Numbers

As we continue the process of signing more organizations, we are thrilled to share that we currently have 12 Signatories and 19 Supporter organizations.

Signatories:

1. Action Aid
2. Adeso
3. Care International
4. Christian Aid
5. Cordaid
6. Mercy Corps
7. Oxfam
8. Plan International
9. Save the Children International
10. SOS Children's Villages Norway
11. The International Rescue Committee
12. Women for Women International

Supporters:

1. Amplify Girls
2. Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), Philippines
3. Centre for Humanitarian Leadership (CHL)
4. Centre for Peace and Democracy (CDP)
5. CHIDDO South Sudan
6. Firelight Foundation
7. Fondation Communautaire Haitienne (ESPWA)
8. Humanitarian Aid International (HAI)
9. Humentum
10. Interaction
11. Loop
12. Nexus
13. Power of Nutrition

14. Purposeful
15. Union pour la Promotion/Protection, la Defense des Droits Humains et de l'Environnement (UPDDHE/GL)
16. West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)
17. Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO)
18. Abs Development Organization for Women and Child (ADO)
19. CDA Collaborative Learning

We are now seeking additional funding and support to build the accountability and learning mechanism; develop and deliver pilots demonstrating transformative practice and ensure that we have strong working groups to translate the pledges into action.

Introducing the Pledge for Change team

Hosted by [Adeso](#), Pledge for Change is governed by a Steering Committee of signatory organizations, and an Advisory Group of supporter organizations. Working groups with membership from across the signatories and supporters are being reinvigorated for each of the pledges: Equitable Partnerships; Authentic Storytelling, and Influencing Wider Change.

[Sidhee Patel](#) initially joined the Pledge for Change team during the early days of pledge development in 2021, and then officially in March of this year. She works as a program officer and is the main point of contact for all pledge inquiries.

[Isabella Jean](#) served as the facilitator for the Pledge for Change CEO retreats since January 2021 and has since accompanied several working groups and supported the development of the accountability and learning mechanism for the Pledge.

[Doreen Omitto](#) initially worked on Pledge for Change as the main point of contact in January 2022 and played a crucial role in planning Pledge for Change retreats. She is currently the Research and Influencing Coordinator as she conducts essential research on topics related to modern colonialism and decolonization, benefiting multiple Adeso projects, including Pledge for Change.

[Kate Moger](#) joined the Pledge for Change team in July as the Director, with responsibility for coordinating across the organizations, and ensuring that Pledge for Change is

linked to and complementing the wider ecosystem of changemakers committed to the decolonization of aid. Kate has joined Adeso with 20 years of experience in humanitarian and development contexts, mostly in Central and West Africa.

You can reach us at pledgeforchange@adesoafrica.org

Priorities for the coming months include:

- Reinvigorating working groups on Equitable Partnerships and Authentic Storytelling, and creating a group to work on Influencing Wider Change.
- Finalizing on the metrics that have been refined by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning working group and start the data collection.
- Sharing the set of common metrics in September along with updates about an independent partner survey development (in partnership with WACSI) and other accountability and learning components such as the Advisory Group supported review panels from the Adeso team.

Please look out for more details of the PfC virtual retreat and other exciting events to follow!

Thank you for your support so far. We look forward to sharing more, and increasing our engagement with the establishment of the working groups. Hope all of you have had or are continuing to have a restful summer break.

If you haven't signed up yet, don't miss out. Click [here](#) to learn how you can become a signatory or a supporter and join the Pledge for Change 2030.

Until next time,

Warm Regards.

[Website](#)