



Issue 2 - October 2023

### Greetings from the Pledge Secretariat:

A full year has now passed since the Pledge for Change was launched.

Over the last year, Pledge signatories and supporters have made important progress towards the realization of the Pledges. We know that there is still a long way to go, in a world that feels ever more polarized, and in which the aid system is increasingly acknowledged to need both reimagining and revolution.

The community that we are building, in solidarity and alignment with other systems change initiatives in the sector, is focused on “making the world different by doing things differently”. There is power in knowing that with many of us, we will start to create new pathways to a different future. The diversity of our coalition and the different realities across contexts and organizations means that the Pledge for Change cannot try to chart this path too rigidly.

As a collective effort which aims to shift power, we are intentional and honest about the importance of leading from the edges, celebrating and nurturing the emergent systems, learning from experimentation and indeed, sometimes, failure. We invite the sharing of ideas, without ego, without logos. We can watch as these ideas travel across organizations, geographies, leaders, communities, and see where they land and how they grow differently in different places.

Thank you for reading!

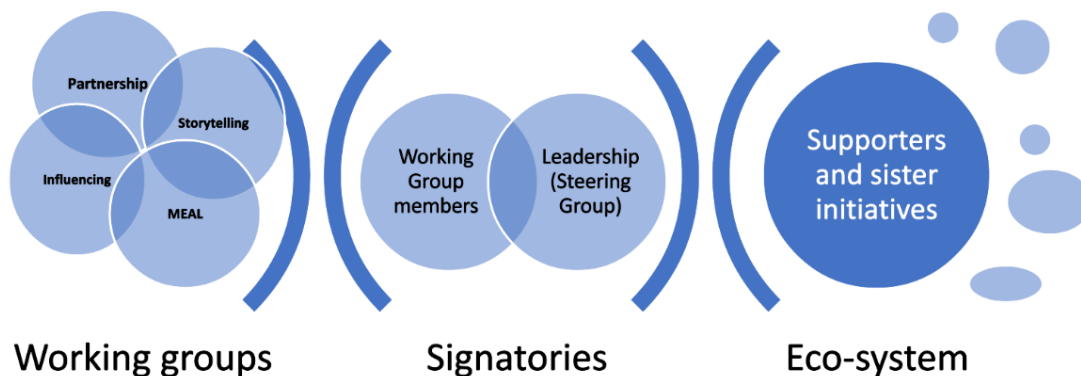
**We are actively seeking additional funding to further develop the accountability and learning mechanism, to support several pilots demonstrating transformative practice and to ensure that we have strong working groups to translate the pledges into action.**

**Please reach out to us if you have ideas or connections to enable us to bring critical resources to these shared commitments.**

### UPDATES:

**We now have [12 signatories](#) and [22 supporters](#).** We are happy to share that [FHI360](#) and [Lepra](#) joined the pledge as a signatory and a supporter respectively this month. We continue to build a wider network of organizations who are interested in the initiative and its pledges.

**To enhance collaboration and chart progress, we convened three working groups in September:** Equitable Partnerships; Authentic Storytelling; and Influencing Wider Change. The fourth group, the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) group has been working hard to finalize metrics and indicators to enable the collection of comparable baseline data. This group is now expanding membership to include more representatives from signatory and supporter organizations, including the [West African Civil Society Institute](#) (WACSI), which is assisting the Pledge in developing an independent partner survey as an integral part of the accountability and learning mechanism.

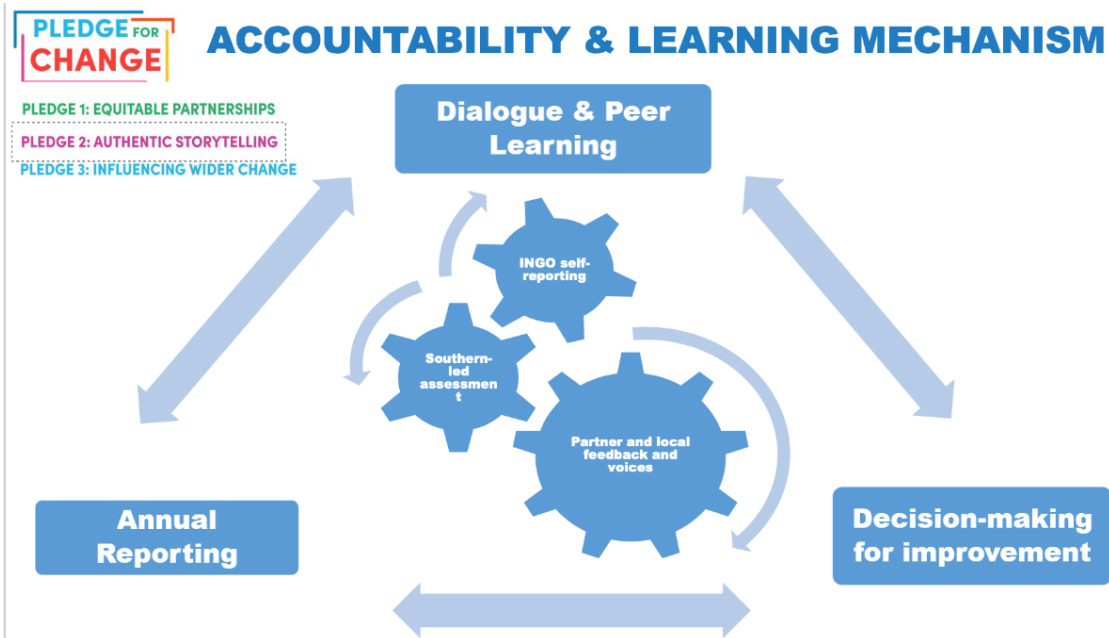


We are also delighted to celebrate and appreciate Pledge signatory [Christian Aid](#), who will contribute the time and skills of five staff, totaling one full-time equivalent, for six months from November 2023 to April 2024. Under the leadership of Alix Tiernan, with support from MEL, Partnership, and Data Quality colleagues, this team will play a critical role in setting up MEAL systems and co-creating the sustainable accountability and learning mechanism that Pledge will champion moving forward.

A huge thank you to Christian Aid!

**From the initial meetings of the first three working groups, several themes are emerging, which we will continue to develop and co-create across these groups and in collaboration with our membership:**

- Ensuring stronger representation from the Global South ecosystem leaders, communities and organizations in the working groups is an essential part of learning, and modelling equitable partnerships in everything that Pledge aspires to do.
- Influencing other INGOs, key institutional donors and funders to act on the principles and commitments embedded in the three Pledges will be key.
- Focusing on alignment with the Pledge values and practicing and modeling feminist leadership as a means to more inclusion and solidarity across the Pledge in an integral part of our aspirations.



### EVENT UPDATES:

- **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):** P4C signatory organizations committed to supporting CSOs and others promoting locally led development during UNGA, included through shared talking points. Degan Ali (Adeso) and Hibak Kalfan (NEAR) joined a panel to discuss [How Locally Led Organisations are Funding Their Futures](#).
- **Reimagining International NGOs (RINGO):** We are linking and building on the RINGO prototypes, specifically the initial design elements for the Accountability and Learning Mechanism developed with colleague from RINGO Lab.
- **Charter for Change:** We are engaging to ensure complementarity with C4C activities and shared membership efforts, to avoid duplication or repetition.
- **INGO leadership:** Pledge for Change Secretariat staff are engaging in INGO leadership retreats (most recently with Cordaid, Plan, InterAction CEO Track and Forum) to raise awareness about the Pledges and support their socialization and implementation.
- **WINGS Forum:** Pledge for Change and Adeso colleagues attended the WINGS Forum in Nairobi, earlier this month. The event focused on enabling change, walking the talk, and creating the future for philanthropy.

Kate Moger, Global Director of Pledge for Change, reflected: *“It was an eye-opening experience for me to spend time in the philanthropic space and to hear such radical commitment to re-imagining or decolonizing philanthropy, particularly to listen to African feminist leaders who understand and live philanthropy from a perspective of shared humanity and community. It was also great to hear commitments from foundations to change the ways in which they are investing and growing assets, as a shift in the paradigms built on capitalist and colonial norms.”*

### FEATURED ARTICLES:

#### [Decolonising Aid Through the Pledge for Change: The Imperative for a Paradigm Shift](#)

This article by Adama Coulibaly, Global Programs Director at Oxfam, highlights that the time has come to rewrite the narrative of international aid. He calls for a future where aid is genuinely empowering and positively transforms the lives it seeks to impact.

#### [Localization requires a humble posture, says Mercy Corps CEO](#)

Tjada D'Oyen McKenna, the CEO of Mercy Corps, spoke with Devex at the Clinton Global Initiative, on the sidelines of UNGA in New York; and she talked about how localization is not just about giving money to local actors. It is also about building relationships and trust, and about learning from local expertise. By localizing aid, donors can ensure that their efforts are more effective and sustainable.

**EVENTS - COMING UP:**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2023: Pledge For Change Virtual Retreat**

Pledge signatory and supporter organizations are invited to join this virtual retreat and explore many of the themes above. If you have not received an invitation, please contact [pledgeforchange@adesoafrica.org](mailto:pledgeforchange@adesoafrica.org)

**DECEMBER 5 - 7, 2023: Shift the Power Summit in Bogota, Columbia**

#ShiftThePower is a mobilizing force that seeks to highlight, harness, resource, legitimize and join up new ways of “deciding and doing” that are emerging around the world. How, for example, can power at the edges of our societies be harnessed at scale so that community-led initiatives shift from being heart-warming, one-off stories to constituting the essential basic fabric of a participatory, inclusive and decentralized society? Find out more about the summit [here](#).

If you have any queries, kindly reach out to us at [pledgeforchange@adesoafrica.org](mailto:pledgeforchange@adesoafrica.org) and we would be happy to respond to them.

Our next newsletter will be shared in January 2024, please let us have any updates or information you would like to see included.

Click here to learn how you can become a signatory or a supporter and join the Pledge for Change 2030



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