



NEAR

Who are we?

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- **Founded in 2016**, Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) is a movement of Local and National Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the Global South who share the common goal of a **fair, equitable and dignified Aid system**.
 - NEAR aims to reshape the top-down humanitarian and development **system to one that is locally driven and owned**, and is built around equitable, dignified and accountable partnerships.
 - NEAR is a network of **200 Local and National NGOs** from across the Global South, reaching out Hundreds more through its partners



Vision and Mission

Vision:

A world where local communities have the resources and agency to address the challenges that impact them.

Vision:

We are a Global South network of local civil society organisations reinventing ideas, knowledge sharing, and influencing.



Defining Local Actors



Present in locations before, during and after a crisis.



Accountable to local laws and authorities.



Accountable to the communities they work with.



Led by nationals of that country.

Our Work

1



Influence policy

and attitudes to reinvent the aid system as one that is equitable and locally-led;

2



Create an instrument of exchange,

learning, and sharing to enrich Global South approaches toward effective and efficient humanitarian and development practices;

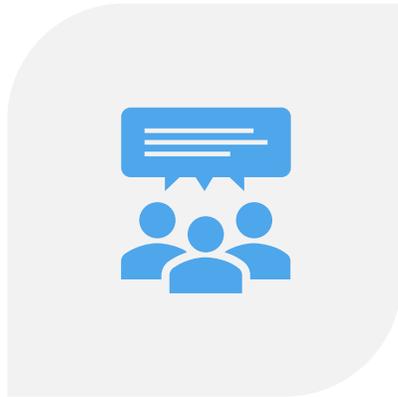
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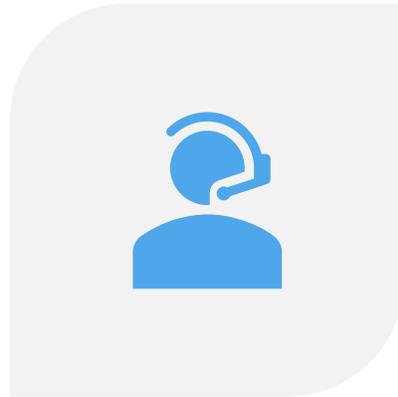
Launch new financing mechanisms

that provide more inclusive, efficient and impactful ways of funding humanitarian and development initiatives.

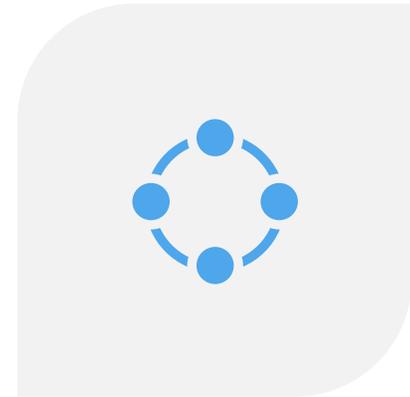
NEAR Secretariat Role



FACILITATOR



ADVISOR



CONNECTOR

Localisation**

NEAR defines localisation as a process of changing the way support to communities is designed, funded and delivered where local response systems have the agency and resources they require to support communities before, during and after crises. Localisation aims to make aid more effective, sustainable and more able to meet the needs of people affected by crises. Localisation is also a process of challenging power within the existing aid system with the objective of putting local response systems at the heart of supporting communities. Localisation is a solution to current sectoral challenges anchored in the belief that shifting power to local actors and rebalancing roles towards local systems of response will enable better support to communities.

Direct relationships + direct resources = localisation

Elevating the Ambition

Influencing: Changing perceptions & attitudes; Global South Representation; Re-Imaging Aid



Innovative Solutions: Shifting to an investment culture; User-centered solutions; South to South Learning & Exchanging



NEAR as a network aspires to nurture and facilitate a clear vision and leadership for change among local and national actors, to shift the balance of power, and to establish a different level of ambition for local and national actors in preparing for, responding to and building resilience against crises.

Our Focus

Attract

Attract investment in NEAR as a global change agent.



Convene

Inspire, convene and connect movements for change.



Incubate

Incubate sustainable and innovative solutions at the local level.



Generate

Generate evidence and learning to drive adaptation, increase 'small bets' and initiate a paradigm shift.





Influencing

Donors

- Governments (US, UK, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, etc)
- Donor Agencies (USAID, ECHO, EU DEVCO, etc)

Global Processes

- Grand Bargain & Agenda for Humanity
- IASC (Inter-Agency Standing Committee)
 - Global Clusters (Protection)
- Charter for Change

International NGO/UN

- INGOS- Save the Children , ACF, IRC, Caritas, Oxfam, **etc**
- International Consortia (ICVA, Interaction, Bond, VOICE, SCHR, etc)
- UN Agencies (OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, WHO, etc)

Knowledge & Learning

Member-to-Network Reorientation



NATIONAL GROUPS

- Have the power/ autonomy to work in contextualized ways that best suit their environments.
- Focused on systems change through the LPMF, not duplicating existing networks.
- Focus on issues most important to them, driving proactive vs. reactive conversations at the sector level.



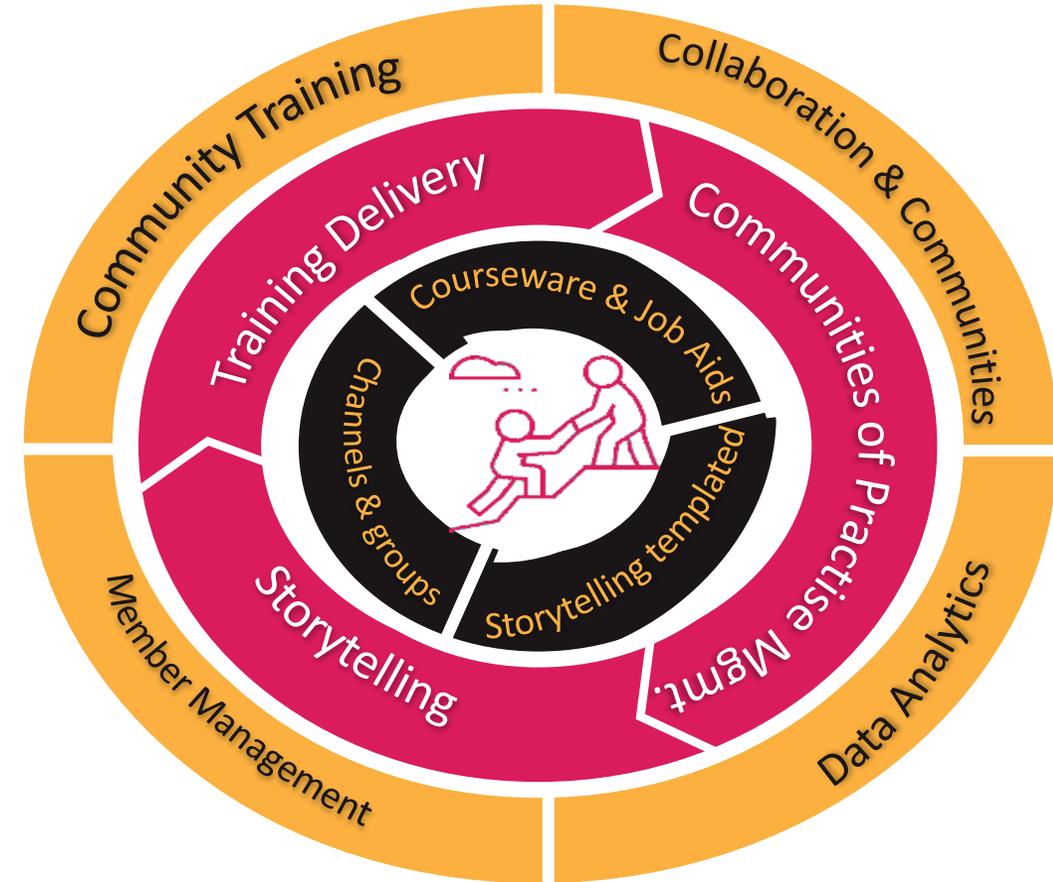
REGIONAL GROUPS

- Focus on regional issues and perspectives through the LPMF and represent national groups.
- The groups are standardized system-change agents focused on legislative changes, policy changes, and high-level system change.



GLOBAL GROUP

- Has a reactive vs. proactive approach working on multiple areas of interest dictated by national and regional conversations.

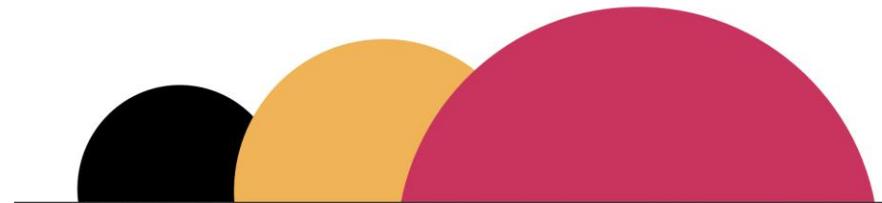


NEAR's Financing Strategy

Practical, progressive and authentic solutions, driven and designed by local actors.

4 priority areas:

- Elevating the level of ambition of local actors.
- Shifting to an investment culture.
- Transform risk perception.
- Design user-centered financing solutions



Innovating Financing

NEAR strives to achieve an Innovative Financing strategy that is relevant, and responsive to the demands and needs of its members and thus far, we are doing that through 2 modalities:

- 1. The Change Fund**
- 2. The Localized Financing Mechanism Initiative**

Our Work

Change Fund

- ✓ The Change Fund is a dedicated global fund with the infrastructure and systems to disburse resources directly to local actors responding to emergencies.
- ✓ A locally led, global humanitarian response mechanism that allows for the quick allocation of funding to frontline local NGOs in the Global South who are directly responding to worsening humanitarian conditions in their communities.
- ✓ It is a standby mechanism supported by a peer-to-peer decision-making framework, a simplified grant-making process and a locally-rooted, transparent approach.
- ✓ The Fund gathers complex data from local organisations and other crises alerts across 27 contexts to scan for emerging humanitarian crises and to correctly classify the stages of these emergencies.

Change Fund



- ✓ 13 members in 11 countries have received grants through the Change Fund (Afghanistan, DRC Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Philippines, Lebanon, Colombia, Kenya, Pakistan, Malawi).
- ✓ Change Fund 1.0 is now closed. Planning to launch Change Fund 2.0 in July/August 2023.
- ✓ Additional proposed features of CF 2.0 from regional consultation: Climate Change Window, Locally-Rooted Early Warning and Crisis Monitoring Mechanism as well as support to country-level humanitarian coordination by members.

Lessons Learned on Innovative Financing

- • The Change Fund is an example of **innovative financing**, as it is a locally-led, global humanitarian response mechanism that prioritises local NGOs.
- The Fund recognises that **local actors are best positioned to deliver aid** but are often under-resourced and unrecognised by the international aid system.
- **Simplified grant-making processes ensure ownership** by and accountability to people affected by crises.
- Importance of localisation of aid responses, the need for simplified grant-making processes, and the value of pre-arranged finance.
- Innovative financing solutions like the Change Fund **can make aid responses quicker, more efficient, and more cost-effective.**
- Limitations of the international aid system in recognising and supporting local organisations. Local NGOs are often hamstrung by complex donor requirements and heavy aid bureaucracy, which takes too long to swing into action.
- In conclusion, the Change Fund is an innovative financing solution that **prioritises local actors and ensures quick allocation of funding during emergencies.** Lessons learned from the Fund include the importance of pre-arranged finance, localisation of aid responses, and simplified grant-making processes.

“We may not have all the answers at NEAR. What our members and partners have is proximity and intimate understanding of their communities, along with local credibility and trust. Together we’re creating an environment that enables innovation and great ideas.”

www.near.ngo

