



Solidarity of the African Humanitarian actors is growing

A New network of African humanitarian organizations is forming with to date 172 members from across the continent and a combined turnover of over 85million in 2022. African civil society leaders are looking to learn from each other and be part of the African Union’s vision of ‘African solutions to African Problems’.

The Africa Humanitarian Organisations Network (AHON) was formed as a result of deliberations during the Africa Union Humanitarian and Pledging conference held in May 2022 at Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The organizing and engagement of African civil society around the 2022 AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference—through in-person participation, a side event on localization of humanitarian aid, [an open-letter to the AU chairperson and a collective pledge signed by 205 organizations](#)—and the process that lead up to the summit- demonstrates the potential of and interest in continental organizing and networking.

Around the world, other civil society sectors have over the years created continental or subcontinental platforms to organize and make their voices heard. However, there was no such platform for such engagements within the African continent for the African civil society working in the humanitarian sector. This gap created a perfect opportunity to create, sustain and nurture fruitful exchanges among African humanitarian leaders. Having a strong regional voice is also critical in various global processes and a strong collective voice from African civil society organisations. The continent also needed a platform for discussing the context, needs and challenges faced by frontline actors. This plus the recurring and protracted humanitarian crises across the continent demanded African solidarity and active engagement from the civil society. Since then the AHON was formed and has engaged with the African Union and other partners for example the African Union Food Security and Nutrition Summit.

The aim of the network is for African Humanitarian actors to work together in solidarity, learn from each other and participate in joint advocacy that focuses on the African Union, regional bodies and African governments. The driving goal of the members of the AHON is to improve humanitarian responses and work in partnership with stable African governments to address the root causes of the African humanitarian crises. We aim to be part of the African solutions to African problems.

The network recently conducted a mapping exercise among the 185 signed members representing different types of organisations. The diversity of the organisations represented is quite evident, from large organisation operating at regional level to grass root organisations at local levels each working across all the humanitarian response sectors. These include Women-led Organisations, Refugee-led Organisations, networks and NGOs with a collective turnover for the year 2022 was over 85 million USD.

The source of funding for a majority of the members is from international NGOs, mobilizing resources from their communities, the private sector and also from Africans living in the diaspora. The concept of African Philanthropy is well represented as most members are able to mobilize a good percentage of their resources from local sources. The humanitarian that members are actively responding to, across all regions of Africa, include climate change induced crises such as drought, cyclones and floods; conflict related crisis, and economic inequalities.

For more information on the Africa Humanitarian Organisations Network (AHON), see the Terms of Reference and Advisory Council members [here](#).