**Terms of Reference:**

**Community engagement and accountability Working Group for Africa**

**Last updated: September 2022**

## **Background:**

In 2019 the [Movement-wide commitments on community engagement and accountability](https://communityengagementhub.org/resource/movement-wide-commitments-for-cea/) were unanimously passed at the Council of Delegates, outlining the actions that all members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are obligated to prioritise and integrate in to their work. There are 7 commitments in total:

1. All Movement components commit to integrating community engagement and accountability in their strategies, policies and procedures.
2. All Movement components commit to regularly conducting an analysis of the contexts they work in to better understand and address the diversity of needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of the people and communities they seek to serve and assist.
3. All Movement components commit to facilitating greater participation of local people and communities, including National Society volunteers, and helping them to apply their knowledge, skills and capacities to find appropriate and effective solutions to their problems.
4. All Movement components commit to systematically listening to, responding to and acting on feedback from the people and communities we aim to serve.
5. All Movement components commit to greater transparency in our communications and relationships with people and communities we aim to serve.
6. All Movement components commit to strengthening knowledge, skills and competencies in community engagement and accountability at all levels, and systematically incorporating this learning into our work.
7. All Movement components commit to coordinating their approaches to community engagement and accountability when working in the same context, including with relevant external partners, in order to increase coherence and consistency, avoid duplication and improve effectiveness and efficiency.

In 2020, the [CEA strategy for Africa 2020-2023](https://communityengagementhub.org/cea-africa-strategy/) was launched after extensive research was conducted with Movement partners across the region. The research looked at what staff felt were the enablers supporting the integration of community engagement and accountability and the barriers which were preventing us from institutionalizing it further. The strategy outlines 5 key strategic changes that we want to achieve in Africa:

1. Strengthen understanding of and capacity to implement community engagement and accountability
2. Integrate community engagement into ways of working so it becomes a standard approach for all staff and volunteers
3. Increase documentation of success and lessons learned to enhance understanding and ownership of community engagement
4. Increase organizational support and resourcing to institutionalize and implement community engagement and accountability
5. Promote a culture of accountability internally among Movement members and externally with communities and partners

A Working Group for community engagement and accountability in Africa would help to encourage and strengthen coordination to improve the integration of the Movement-wide commitments and achieve the five key strategic changes for Africa. Key objectives of the Working Group include:

* Discuss progress, challenges and ways forward for achieving the 5 key strategic changes in the strategy for Africa
* Showcase best practice, innovation, learning and evidence from our work
* Enable peer learning between Movement partners
* Share updates on CEA activities in key operations and emergencies across Africa
* Signpost to new tools, guidance and training materials available
* Identify opportunities for collaboration between Movement partners at country and regional levels

## **KEY TASKS:**

* Bring together interested NSs, PNS, IFRC and ICRC colleagues working on strengthening community engagement and accountability in the region to improve collaboration and coordination of strategies and activities
* Promote successes and achievements in implementing the Movement-wide commitments and 5 key strategic changes for Africa to promote peer learning and documentation of best practices
* Identify key challenges impacting the integration of our work and discuss common approaches to address them
* Coordinate on contextualizing and translating key guidance, strategies, tools and training materials for the Africa region and ensuring these are available on the CEA Hub
* Identify opportunities to collaborate on key programs and operations, such as the Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods program, ECHO PPP, the hunger crisis etc., and establish additional coordination platforms for these as necessary
* Identify opportunities to integrate community engagement and accountability into other technical sectors and areas of work, such as PGI, Cash, Health, climate change, migration
* Support strengthening and scale-up of the collection, analysis, coding, visualization and dissemination of community feedback and social science data, and discuss ways forward for collective action on findings
* Invite external partners, such as Africa CDC, WHO, UNICEF etc., to join certain meetings for discussions on specific initiatives to promote inter-agency collaboration
* Discuss opportunities for engagement with donors to advocate for funding at country, cluster and regional levels.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP:**

Membership and participation is open to all Movement partners (NSs, PNSs, IFRC and ICRC) who are involved in supporting community engagement and accountability work in Africa. **You do not have to be a technical expert in CEA to join the Working Group, you only need to be committed to integrating it in your work.**

Internal Movement colleagues from other technical sectors (e.g. PGI, Cash, migration etc.) may be invited to join specific Working Group meetings or sub-group meetings to discuss collaboration and integration of community engagement and accountability work.

When appropriate and relevant, external partners may also be invited to join specific Working Group meetings or sub-group meetings to discuss collaboration on inter-agency initiatives.

## **meeting frequency:**

The community engagement and accountability Working Group shall meet virtually on a quarterly basis for two hours. The first meeting in 2022 will be held on XX of October at XX east African time. Calendar invites will be sent to everyone who signs up in the participants list in the Annex below.

Sub-groups will meet as need arises, but in the immediate instance will include:

* Monthly meetings on the Africa CDC Saving Lives and Livelihoods program (to be held every XX at XX east Africa time)
* Bi-monthly meetings on ECHO PPP (to be held every XX at XX east African time)
* Bi-monthly community feedback sub-working group (to be held every XX at XX east African time)

Real-time translation into French and Portuguese will be arranged during all meetings to ensure inclusivity. Sub-groups may be held separately in English, French and Portuguese depending on feasibility of real-time translation.

## **chair/co-Chair and Agenda:**

The IFRC Senior Community Engagement and Accountability adviser for Africa will chair the Working Group or will be deputized by another member of the IFRC CEA team when absent. A rotational co-chair could be shared between interested NS, PNS or ICRC. Please indicate your interest in co-chairing in the Annex below.

Standing agenda items for each meeting would include:

* Key progress and achievements on the 5 key strategic changes
* Identified challenges and potential ways forward
* Updates on regional or global initiatives
* New tools, guidance, research or training materials
* Thematic deep dives

## **Resources**

All resources, guidance and materials will be hosted on the CEA Hub.

Meeting minutes, recordings of each meeting and key resources/PPTs will be shared with members of the Working Group after each meeting.

For any questions, please email Sophie.everest@ifrc.org

# Annex 1

**Membership of the Working Group**

Please add your name and details to the table below if you would like to become a member of the community engagement and accountability Working Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Organisation** | **Email address** | **Please list any sub-working groups you would like to join** (e.g. Africa CDC SLL, ECHO PPP, community feedback, CEA in Cash, CEA and PGI etc.) | **Would you be interested in being a rotational co-chair? Yes/No** |
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