THE TOGETHER PROJECT

OVERVIEW
In January 2017, in partnership with a group of founding Members, and supported by CEOs across our community, InterAction launched the Together Project. The Together Project enables U.S.-based NGOs that provide vital development and humanitarian relief around the world—and confront discrimination or targeted prejudicial regulations in the U.S.—to share information and develop strategies in response to shrinking civil society spaces. The Together Project brings attention to issues that impact the NGO community, educates relevant policy-makers and officials, convenes and facilitates conversations about solutions, connects NGOs with one other, and builds solidarity.

PRIORITIES
The Together Project coalition strengthens collective capacity, raises awareness of common issues impacting U.S.-based NGOs operating internationally, shares best practices, and develops strategies to combat shrinking civil society spaces. Structured through workstreams, InterAction Members collaborate on:

- **Positive Public Image** Creating positive messaging with narratives, storytelling, and effective communications
- **Disinformation Attacks & Response** Challenging disinformation and providing tools for a constructive response
- **Interfaith Connections** Engaging in supportive partnerships focused on NGO solidarity
- **Civil Society Strengthening and Defense** Building collective capacity, raising awareness, and connecting organizations within global civil society
- **De-risking & Financial Access Issues** Addressing access concerns including bank account refusals or closures, delayed or frozen transfers, and increased due diligence requirements
- **Material Support Regulations** Developing an understanding of material support and associated sanctions, regulations and designations affecting civil society

OUR GOALS

**DEFINE**
A solid understanding of the legal, regulatory, and civil rights issues facing member organizations.

**ADVOCATE**
For the preservation of civil society space, addressing discriminatory policies and inaccurate risk perceptions facing humanitarian and development organizations.

**STRENGTHEN**
Collective capacity, raise awareness, connect organizations, build solidarity and share best practices through the development of a broad secular and faith-based coalition.
WHAT WE DO

MEETINGS AND EVENTS
- U.S. Dept. of Treasury Charities Outreach Meetings
- World Bank/ACAMS Stakeholder Dialogues on De-risking in the Hague and Washington, DC
- Muslim Humanitarian and Development Organizations Stakeholder Meeting at the UN Financial Crime Risk Management Academy with Standard Chartered Bank Presentation- World Bank 2019 Spring Meetings
- Presentation- International Civil Society Centre’s 2019 Innovator’s Forum in Berlin
- Presentation-Humentum’s 2018 Annual Conference
- InterAction’s Disinformation Toolkit Presentation and Webinar
- Positive Public Image Workshops on Communications and Media Training
- Together Project Annual Solidarity Breakfast Events
- Together Project Advocacy Team Capitol Hill Weeks

FOUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

American Relief Agency for the Horn of Africa strives to alleviate the suffering from hunger, illiteracy, diseases, and poverty in the Horn of Africa, as well as help the east African community in Minnesota.

Helping Hand for Relief and Development integrates resources for people in need. They strive to provide immediate response in disasters, and effective programs in places of suffering, for the pleasure of God.

United Muslim Relief integrates their global partners’ services to provide comprehensive Muslim relief and development aid to underserved communities. UMR blends advocacy, youth mobilization, disaster response, aid delivery, and empowerment through education.

Zakat Foundation fosters charitable giving to alleviate the immediate needs of poor communities and establish long-term development projects that ensure individual and community growth.

Islamic Relief - USA alleviates suffering, hunger, illiteracy, and diseases worldwide and provides aid in a compassionate and dignified manner. They provide rapid relief in the event of disasters and establish sustainable local development projects.

EXPERT BRIEFINGS
- U.S. Humanitarian Assistance and Banking Challenges with the U.S. GAO
- Challenges Facing NGOs Operating Internationally
- Workplan to Improve NPO Access to Financial Services
- Banking Regulations & Financial Access for Non-Profits
- Designation Process & U.S. Policy
- Working Effectively Under the Prohibitions Against Providing Material Support
- Untangling a Marriage of Convenience: AML & CFT
- Congressional Hearing: InterAction CEO testimony to Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee
- Material Support 101

PARTNERSHIPS & SUPPORTERS
- Legal Groups: TrustLaw, Venable LLP, and Morrison & Foerster LLP
- Organizations: Charity & Security Network, Solidarity Center, CARE, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and Feed the Children
- Sign-on: InterAction Community Statement Denouncing Discrimination and Intolerance (October 31, 2018)

"The Together Project exists because we are one community of NGOs trying to serve humanity: Muslim, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, other faiths, secular, liberal and conservative. An attack on one member is an attack on us all, and we will all push back."

Sam Worthington, InterAction CEO