

# FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL (AND VICE-VERSA)

## Interaction Support to NGO Fora

### Overview of InterAction

[InterAction](#) is the largest U.S.-based alliance of international non-governmental organizations (INGO) and partners, mobilizing over 160 Members to think and act collectively in service of vulnerable and crisis affected populations by providing a forum for consultation, coordination, and advocacy.

### NGO Fora in Humanitarian Settings: What They Do

NGO fora are crucial coordination bodies that facilitate effective collaboration, not only amongst NGOs but across other response actors, including the United Nations (U.N.) and local, national, and international government stakeholders, to ensure that multisectoral aid is reaching the most vulnerable in an efficient and timely manner. These fora serve as platforms for NGOs to exchange information, share expertise, establish common ways of working, and collectively engage with external stakeholders. They support humanitarian trends analyses and risk forecasting, contribute to minimizing and mitigating operational risks, advance results-based and NGO-led responses, and serve as a key negotiator and external liaison for bureaucratic and administrative impediments to aid delivery. Critically, they provide an instrumental link between the voices of affected populations and humanitarian leadership bodies.

InterAction is committed to supporting NGO fora across the globe in expanding their capacities to foster collective accountability and undertake collective action. Specifically, InterAction works to maintain and strengthen a global community of practice, providing governance advice and expertise, supporting advocacy, and promoting the pivotal role fora play in the broader humanitarian community. InterAction's community of practice roster currently spans over 35 fora in humanitarian and nexus contexts worldwide.

### Services InterAction Provides to NGO Fora and Forum Directors<sup>1</sup>:

#### GOVERNANCE ADVICE & EXPERTISE

- ▶ Provides a daily help desk providing one-on-one coaching, technical support, and referral services.
- ▶ Develops minimum standards and guidelines for forum host agencies and best practices for forum donors.
- ▶ Avails and regularly updates a robust platform of tools and templates for forum directors and steering committees.
- ▶ Conducts ad hoc field missions to support NGO coordination in humanitarian settings.
- ▶ Supports research initiatives aimed at affecting change to the humanitarian system in view of enhancing principled responses, bringing accountability, and promoting resilience and recovery.

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<sup>1</sup> This list is not exhaustive.

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- ▶ Cultivates and curates vibrant discussion and learning between NGO forum directors/leadership, including through discussion groups, regular “All Forum” meetings, ad hoc meetings between select fora with common interests, and annual in person meetings.

## ADVOCACY SUPPORT

- ▶ Supports identification and development of key advocacy initiatives toward:
  - U.S. government based/facing stakeholders and broader humanitarian leadership and decision-making bodies.
  - The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), including Principals, Deputies, the Emergency Directors Group (EDG), the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG), and various task forces.
  - Multistakeholder platforms, including through its co-leadership role of the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group.
- ▶ Fosters connections between country-based NGO fora and D.C.-based stakeholders including:
  - Member-based working groups.
  - The U.S. government (State Department, USAID, Congress, National Security Council).

## Resources for Forum Leaders

- ▶ [Request to Join our WhatsApp Group](#)
- ▶ [Fora Community of Practice Shared File System](#)
- ▶ [Forum-in-a-Box](#)

## General Resources

- ▶ [Stronger Together: A Guidebook for NGO Fora in Humanitarian Settings](#)
- ▶ [Tools for Host Agency HQs Supporting Fora](#)
- ▶ [Unified Across the Humanitarian-Development Spectrum: For NGO Fora Supporting the “Nexus”](#)
- ▶ [NGO Coordination Structures and the Localization Debate](#)
- ▶ 5Ws upon request (only accessible by fora who have contributed)

For any questions, please reach out to [Rachel Unkovic](#), InterAction’s NGO Coordination Advisor.