**REPORT BY: CAFOD**

**COMMITMENT:** CAFOD commits to the Core Humanitarian Standard, (CHS) and will continue to promote and adhere to Sphere Minimum Standards and other companion and complementary technical standards for humanitarian response, and will continue to support partners to understand and implement projects in compliance with minimum standards.

**CORE RESPONSIBILITY:** Change People's Lives: From Delivering Aid to Ending Need

**TRANSFORMATION:** Reinforce, do not replace, national and local systems

**What led your organization to make the commitment?**

CAFOD's commitment to quality and accountability began in the late 90's and has continued ever since. Having first been certified by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) in 2009 and re-certified in 2012/13 CAFOD was passionate about continuing its commitment to a quality and accountability standard that could be used by all organisations to demonstrate their effectiveness and accountability to people and communities. CAFOD recognises the need to demonstrate our own accountability and to provide commitment and leadership on the CHS and accountability among partnership agencies and the Caritas confederation.

**Achievements at a glance**

CAFOD applies the CHS across all humanitarian, development and advocacy work internationally. CAFOD was one of the organisations to be certified compliant with CHS by HQAI in March 2016. CAFOD has undergone its first maintenance assessment (March 2017) and retained certification. CAFOD is integrating CHS throughout its programme management framework including manuals, tools and guidance. CAFOD has played a leading role in supporting the Disaster Emergency Committee's (DEC) to align its accountability framework to the CHS as well as supporting DEC member agencies to conduct CHS self-assessments. CAFOD continues to support Caritas Internationalis to develop its approach to CHS and accountability to people and communities affected by crisis.

**How is your organization assessing progress?**

CAFOD assesses progress internally and externally. Externally progress is assessed through annual CHS assessments conducted by HQAI to maintain certification. Internal monitoring processes such as Key Performance Indicators regarding complaints management keep critical organisational issues at the top of the agenda. CAFOD continues to develop its approach to monitoring the CHS at project and programme level with partners.

To ensure reporting coherence across CAFOD’s corporate commitments the Emergency Response Group will work closely with the Strategy, Performance and Evidencing team with the People and Performance Group to develop an organisational reporting framework.

**Challenges faced in implementation**

Rolling out the CHS across development work remains challenging due to the perceived nature of the CHS as a humanitarian standard.

It takes time to create buy in from national and local partners, and to develop collaborative approaches that do not impose a northern centric model of quality and accountability.

Assessing compliance with CHS is time consuming and considerably reduces the time available to support CHS implementation in the field, ensuring appropriate support to staff and partners remains an ongoing area of work.

**Next step to advance implementation**

CAFOD will continue to integrate CHS throughout its programme management framework and partnership approach. Reporting compliance with CHS will be aligned with existing monitoring activities, and the links to corporate reporting will be explored with the People and Performance Group who support, monitor and evaluate corporate compliance.

**If you had one message for the annual report on what is most needed to advance the transformation**

Strongly promote the CHS as a quality standard that is applicable to local and national organisations not only international organisations.

**Cross cutting issues/ initiatives linked to this report**

* Accountability to Affected People
* People-centered approach